

Ride

Horse show kicks off this week's county fair

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Slide

Cottonwood Valley wins state title

► PAGE 12

Win

Predict when we'll hit 100 and win

mnks.us/contest



Marion County RECORD

Joint issue with

Hillsboro Star-Journal

PEABODY Gazette-Bulletin

Vols. 156, 117 and 151 — No. 45

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025 — MARION, HILLSBORO, and PEABODY, Kansas

12 pages

Getting ready to rumble — and crash — is in the blood

By PHYLLIS ZORN

Staff writer

Like blue eyes and blonde hair, demolition derby competition is a trait that passes from one generation to another.

Gavin Druse, 16, Marion, began creating derby cars to smash when he was only 11. This is his fifth year to compete in derbies.

Five years on, Gavin modified a 1996 Toyota Camry to drive this year on a circuit of county fairs.

He spent last week preparing his Camry in a shop east of

Wagon Wheel Express in Marion while several other derby drivers also worked on their cars.

"I like spending time in the shop and being with my friends," he said.

Gavin fell into demolition derby competition naturally. His father and grandfather competed as well.

"I grew up watching dad derby," he said. "I like the derby community. It's just about crashing the cars, and afterward, we're all friends."

He installed a few safety fea-



STAFF PHOTO BY PHYLLIS ZORN

Gavin Druse, 16, Marion, works on his demolition derby car Friday. The car is a 1996 Toyota Camry he plans to drive Saturday at Marion County Fair.

tures in his car this year after his father injured his back last year.

His father, Matt Druse, is a die-hard competitor. He also grew up watching his father and uncle build and drive derby cars. He has competed 25 years, since he was 15.

He and others find cars on farms, in barns, and other places they spot them. The next stage is to equip the car for being smashed in the derby ring.

Gavin is his only son. His

wife and daughter don't want to drive in the derby.

So far this season, Druse has already driven in three derbies: in Nebraska and Topeka, and at the McPherson County Fair at Canton.

As he stood in the shop where drivers prepared cars for derbies, Druse said 10 cars already had been modified in his shop this season.

He and a caravan of drivers loaded up their cars Saturday and competed in Canton.

PLEASE SEE DERBY PAGE 11

Fire call largely ignored

Poor turnout follows airing of complaints

By PHYLLIS ZORN

Staff writer

On the heels of a meeting with the mayor and city administrator but not their fire chief, only two Marion firefighters responded with Chief Chris Killough to fight a hay fire Monday.

So few firefighters responded that Killough had to ask for help from Florence and Cedar Point.

When dispatchers paged Marion firefighters late Monday morning, Killough and two firefighters in a single brush truck responded.

Short-handed, Killough radioed for more firefighters, but firefighters pressed their microphone buttons and did not go to the fire.

Florence firefighters were called and brought a tanker and two brush trucks to help.

Cedar Point firefighters were summoned as well.

The fire was extinguished and hot spots checked within 50 minutes.

Killough said the microphone presses, which can be linked to specific radios on monitoring equipment like the newspaper's, were a technical issue. He referred questions about the meeting to City Administrator Bryan Wells.

PLEASE SEE FIRE PAGE 5

About to be badgered by mom



STAFF PHOTO BY CHERI BENTZ

Standing proud on a pile of freshly dug dirt Friday, this young badger studies a photographer taking its picture before a mother badger chased the young one into its den, dug into the side of a ditch near 90th and Clover Rds.

Winds batter county

By PHYLLIS ZORN

Staff writer

Much of the county, particularly the Hillsboro area, was hammered by wind and thunderstorms Monday night.

County road and bridge crews out from 1 until 9 a.m. Tuesday — some later — cutting limbs and trees off county roads.

"The biggest damage was probably trees down," emergency manager Marcy Hostetler said. "You had the smaller limbs and branches, and a lot of trees up to 12 inches were down. I think a lot of that damage happened just before the storm when the winds hit."

Winds of 60 mph were reported before the storm hit.

A tree split at Tabor College, Hostetler said, and was felled by wind, not struck by lightning.

Trees also went down on several county roads, such as Kanza, Nighthawk, and Jade Rds.

A glass window at Bill and Essie's BBQ in Marion was blown out and smashed on the sidewalk. It was cleaned up Tuesday afternoon.

Limbs of 8 to 10 inches in diameter were felled, and a power failure was reported in Burns.

"I'm still having reports come in, but it looks like Hillsboro has the most damage," Hostetler said Tuesday night.

Before the storm, lightning hit an awning over Hillsboro's Sinclair gasoline pumps, but torrential rain soon followed and put out the fire.

Firefighters from Hillsboro, Marion, and Durham were dispatched, but when Hillsboro Fire Chief Ben Steketee arrived, he reported the fire already was out.

Elsewhere in Hillsboro, a tree was uproot-

PLEASE SEE STORM PAGE 6

Loathes into loaves

Church responds to despised cutting of free food

By FINN HARTNETT

Staff writer

Ever since a financed commodities program providing free food to more than 250 low-income county families was paused in June, local organizers have fretted over those they are unable to feed.

The good news is that some organizations are launching their own programs to battle food insecurity.

Florence United Methodist Church is a small congregation, with 20 or so members. It isn't exactly flush with cash, either; unable to afford a full-time minister, the church instead has a guest speaker every Sunday.

But after the commodities program was put on hold, the church's hospitality direc-

PLEASE SEE FOOD PAGE 6



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

Florence United Methodist Church's food pantry is providing key meals to residents after a federal commodities program paused operations in June.

Cops seize store's THC drinks

By PHYLLIS ZORN

Staff writer

Uncertain of the legality of products found in Carlsons' Grocery in Marion, police seized 160 cans and bottles of THC beverages Saturday.

Bearing names such as "Nowadays," "Drink Easy," "Drinking Buds," and "Happy," some come in flavors such as raspberry honeysuckle.

The containers say that the minimum age to buy the product is 21 and that it contains no alcohol.

Greg Carlson, co-owner of Carlsons' Grocery, said the products were ordered through the store's beer company, City Beverage, and arrived Thursday.

"They said it's selling very



STAFF PHOTO BY PHYLLIS ZORN

Two cans and two bottles from among 160 beverages containing THC seized from Carlsons' Grocery by Marion police.

well in Morris County," Carlson said.

Now, the seized beverages are in the police department's evidence room.

Interim Police Chief Zach Hudlin said officer Dustin Woodford saw the beverages

PLEASE SEE DRINKS PAGE 6

Opinion

Things are getting curiouser and curiouser

FELINE COMPANION ZENGER might be jealous, but while curiosity kills cats, it is the lifeblood of journalists — even if it occasionally results in catty comments about us.

This week's news is full of curious developments. We aren't wise enough or presumptive enough to tell you what to make of them. That's up to you. We just let you know about them and let you make up your own mind what they might mean.

When we heard, as we did Monday, that almost no Marion firefighters responded to a fire call and that a group of them had just met — without their chief — to discuss "personnel matters," we had to wonder whether there was a connection. Later that same day, although they weren't needed, a typical number of Marion firefighters responded to a gas station's canopy on fire. So maybe it was a fluke. Or maybe it wasn't.

When we learned, as we did Thursday, that the nearest ambulance was 17.3 miles away when a highly regarded rural Lost Springs man collapsed and stopped breathing at far too young an age, we worried about his fate. We took comfort in the fact that dispatchers instructed those who called in how to perform CPR, but we became curious when there was no immediate answer to pages for Lincolnville first responders and Lost Springs firefighters to help. The first responders eventually did arrive, but in the meantime, Marion firefighters had to be summoned from just as far away as the ambulance.

The situation became even more curious when a county commissioner complained Monday that the county needed agreements with neighboring counties that might have ambulances closer in a rural emergency. Most curious, the county already has such an agreement with Dickinson County, which would have been nearer, but the commissioner, the ambulance director, and apparently dispatchers were unaware of it.

Experts tell us if a heart stops beating for even four or five minutes, it's probably too late to save the victim. We don't want to seem cruel, but living more than four or five minutes from an ambulance is a risk people need to understand they are taking, not something that government can mediate.

Closer to home, we tend to use Cenex gas because it's sold by a locally owned cooperative, but we nonetheless were pleased this week to see that Casey's General Store in Marion once again was able to sell its lower-priced regular containing ethanol. It's been able to sell only higher-priced, ethanol-free fuel for nearly two months while its ethanol fuel tank went through what we were told at the time was routine cleaning and maintenance.

Now, curiously, that tank has been shut down, and pumps have been reconfigured so that cheaper gas with ethanol now comes from the store's old ethanol-free tank. In the words of a store clerk not authorized to speak for the store, the ethanol tank has been "condemned."

We spent quite a bit of time this week trying to figure out what that meant but were unable to reach anyone in authority. So, it remains another curiosity that readers will have to consider, particularly in light of re-

cent efforts in the area of the store to isolate the source of leaking from past or present underground tanks.

Then there's the story of THC beverages at Carlsons' Grocery. Police saw them and seized them. THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, is for the most part a controlled drug in Kansas. Were they right in doing so? Neither the police nor the newspaper — nor, in all likelihood, Carlsons' itself — seems to know.

A maze of regulations governs marijuana-related items. Some THC may be legal if it's kept at a very low level and if the THC came from hemp instead of cannabis, but no one has been able to provide a clear answer. And several dozen bottles of the beverage now sit in police custody awaiting clarity.

All the nuances about THC actually seem pretty curious in themselves. If people are looking for a marijuana "high," they probably won't get it from something with such a low level of THC. But advertising that a beverage contains THC — just like ads for lotions and other products containing another marijuana component, CBD — seem to base the product's appeal on its daring to contain trace amounts of pot.

We also learned this week that our new state representative curiously has been posting on social media some of the more bizarre and widely disproved conspiracy theories that seem to circulate among the ultra-right. Truth be known, it doesn't surprise us that he seems to harbor these opinions. What surprises us is that, unlike others, he didn't take time to clean up his social media feed before becoming a public figure.

We typically avoid talking national politics. Just look at the level of disgusting discourse from both sides on anti-social media whenever we do. However, we find it curious that one of our U.S. senators bragged about cutting funding for NPR and PBS as a way of getting rid of socialist media.

That's not to say there aren't concerns about networks that bill themselves as non-commercial. Programs that used to contain nothing but calm recitations of the names of foundations that supported them now air breathless product claims and slogans almost identical to those in commercial media.

Criticize them on those grounds if you must, but not for being socialist, which they most definitely are not. Government is forbidden to base its actions on the opinions anyone espouses. The First Amendment means government can't reward news organizations whose coverage it loves and penalize those whose coverage it hates. Those who love the Second Amendment curiously don't seem to respect the First.

What we find even more curious is the number of generally sane and responsible politicians — including our other U.S. senator — whose voices have fallen mainly silent as such things as President Trump's "big, beautiful bill" is shoved through.

What's better? To be represented by an uncaring bully or a caring coward? That Hobson's choice is a curiosity that may not kill a cat but could very well kill democracy.

— ERIC MEYER



Another Day in the Country

The games of life

By **PAT WICK**
© Another Day in the Country

IT'S A lucky day when Kristina calls and says, "Watcha doin'?" and then follows up my answer with, "we'd like to come over and play games for an hour or so before Madeline goes to volleyball practice."

She knows that I enjoy playing games. Maybe she also knows it isn't just about games. Sitting around a table, playing games, we learn all kinds of things about each other.

All kinds of topics come up. You can hear the latest news about more distant family members. Some pretty heavy subjects surface — inadvertently at times — while a nonsense game like Exploding Kittens is spread across the table.

My mother loved playing dominoes, and she was good at it. She wasn't particularly excited about playing Mexican Train but she loved what we called the old-fashioned way of playing, where you tried to make points by lining up your end numbers to be divisible by five.

"That's way too much work," my sister complains if we suggest playing that game with her.

Fifty-plus years ago, my daughter's dad and I made an oversized (3½-x-6½-inch) set of double-nine dominoes out of redwood and laboriously drilled 497 shallow indents (if I counted correctly) that I carefully filled with white paint.

We had time on our hands, waiting impatiently for our daughter, Jana, to be born, and she was late in arriving.

Once Jana arrived, we were busier, and those big dominoes were used infrequently. But I couldn't throw them away no matter how bulky they were,

using way too much room on a shelf that held games.

Yes, I brought those dominoes to Ramona. This summer, her 18-year-old son and I played several intense domino games with scores divisible by five on the living room floor.

It just happened that it was the evening before his mother's birthday. We'd been straightening shelves in the garage.

"What are these?" he wanted to know, blowing dust off the top of the box of oversized dominoes.

I told him the story.

My current, favorite, game is called Wingspan, and I must admit that when we unwrapped it from under the Christmas tree, my head spun, and my heart sank.

The minute the lid came off the box, I knew this was a seriously complicated game. We watched YouTube tutorials, keeping the rules handy on the table at all times, and finally muddled our way through the first game, declaring a winner.

"That was intense," someone muttered.

"But it was fun, wasn't it?" someone else said.

At that stage, we wondered, but we tried again, and now we are hooked.

That game flew to California for Christmas vacation and then flew back to Kansas with me after Dagfinn's high school graduation in June.

"We have more time to play games at your house," my daughter said.

She was right.

The latest game that my "bonus grandkids" taught me is called 31. I'm sure the kids love that game because we play it with quarters — three per person, which means anyone can

make \$4.50 by winning the game.

We keep a roll of quarters in the china cupboard just in case they come by.

At the beginning of the new year, I threw out all my old decks of cards. They were dirty, tattered, and used up.

Out with the old, in with the new! I came home with eight decks of brand-new cards in four different colors. Let the games begin!

When we moved back to Ramona, Aunt Gertie and Uncle Hank still were here. They were great game players, and we spent many an evening playing 10-point pitch. We called it the Ramona Game.

Then we learned to play Hand and Foot, and that became our favorite game. It's a complicated game to learn, so we made up "rule cards" and had them laminated to hand out to novices.

On a visit to our Colorado cousins, we heard about a game called Jokers and Pegs, learned to play it, and liked it so much that we ordered our own set.

It became our favorite family game of all time. We even manage to play it on FaceTime every other Sunday afternoon with Jana and Dagfinn, calling out our moves between exchanging the news of California and Kansas. We play as partners, which is more fun and makes the game go faster.

If you, too, like playing games, you know it isn't about winning — although winning is fun. It's about the conversation that takes place while the game is going on.

It's about a group of people sitting around a table laughing, eating popcorn, and just enjoying each other's company on another day in the country.

A sign of the times?



STAFF PHOTO BY PHYLLIS ZORN

A sign in a Marion yard proclaims a popular protest statement: "Real Kansans. Real Voters. Real Fed Up."

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Voter apathy

To the editor:

Regarding recent articles on Marion County Rural Water District No. 1, I have been wondering how these board members got there.

I am assuming they are elected like hospital board members are, but the county clerk does not know, as they are not part of the county election process.

The district is required by law to have an annual meeting, but I cannot find online the regulations for being on the board.

In 2021, the district had 356 "benefit units," which I take to mean households using its water. I don't know how many there are today but wonder how many attended the annual meeting and voted.

This seems to me to be another example of how most of us in our representative government today do not say anything until or unless we are unhappy.

We don't bother to attend

meetings, watch the news, or read the newspaper!

On another note, both my July 9 paper and my July 16 paper said Vol. 156, No. 40. Online it says that these dates were issues 43 and 44. Am I not looking at things correctly?

I am used to the old-fashioned way of citing volume, number, and page. I have noticed in some magazines that they seem to be doing away with the volume and issue numbers. Is this one of the new trends?

Thanks for continuing to publish your newspaper. I think Finn Hartnett is doing a good job. Can he be convinced to stay another year?

Martha Bair Antelope

Editor's note: Water district directors are indeed elected much as hospital directors are, typically in the first quarter of the year. See story this week. We erred with issues 43 and 44 and forgot to update the number in print. Finn promised us a year when he started. We definitely would welcome his staying longer, but New York is his home.

JOINT ISSUE

Marion County RECORD

(USPS 329-780) ISSN 2159-4422

Hillsboro Star-Journal

(USPS 245-620) ISSN 2159-4368

PEABODY Gazette-Bulletin

(USPS 424-280)

Phone: (620) 382-2165

Fax: (620) 382-2262

E-mail: record@marionrecord.com

Postal: 117 S. 3rd St., Marion KS 66861

Web: <http://marionrecord.com/>
<http://starj.com/>
<http://peabodykansans.com/>

Marion County Record, Hillsboro Star-Journal, and Peabody Gazette-Bulletin are published weekly, every Wednesday, by Hoch Publishing, the county's only fully accredited member of Kansas Press Association, and are the official newspapers of Marion County and all cities in the county.

Periodical postage is paid at Marion, KS; Hillsboro, KS; and Peabody, KS, and additional mailing offices. Circulation records are available for review by postal officials at Hoch Publishing, 117 S. 3rd St., Marion, KS. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 117 S. 3rd St. Marion KS 66861.

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Eric Meyer

NEWS STAFF

Reporters Finn Hartnett
Nicholas Kimball
Phyllis Zorn
Contributors Delbert Peters
Rowena Plett
Pat Wick

BUSINESS STAFF

Sales manager Debra Steele
Office manager Cheri Bentz
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Beverly Creamer
Arlene Ehrlich

Sit Down owner decides not to stay a while

By **FINN HARTNETT**
Staff writer

Kirsten Dahlgren came to Marion for family. Now, she says, she's leaving for the same reason.

Having been in town for 13 months, Dahlgren is selling the building that serves as her residence and coffee shop, The Sit Down.

She wants to move back to the East coast — either south New Jersey or Pennsylvania — and buy a house together with her oldest son and his fiancée, she said.

Dahlgren did the same thing with her own parents.

“For the young, it's really hard to get a foothold with housing these days,” she said. “To have a family is so costly.”

To afford a new home, she is selling The Sit Down, which has been on the market for two weeks.

She aims to sell the prop-



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

Claire Bradfield has been a barista at The Sit Down since the café opened in June 2024.

erty and business as one, employee Claire Bradfield said, so her baristas can remain employed.

Before moving to Kansas, Dahlgren lived in Vermont, where she still owns a tubing and kayaking business. Before

that, she co-owned a restaurant in upstate New York.

While two of Dahlgren's three children live back east,

daughter Dru Day calls Gardner, Kansas, home, having moved there to live with her fiancée, who she met though an online video game.

In early 2024, Dahlgren planned to move to Gardner to be close to Day. But then, as she put it, God intervened.

“When I Googled ‘houses in Gardner,’ that house in Marion popped up first, and it caught my eye,” she said. “That’s why I say it had God all over it.”

Marion was a far cry from Vermont, where Dahlgren lived next to mountains, rivers, and maple trees.

But she thought the two-story property sounded like a steal and bought it without thinking twice.

“We’re driving out here, me and my boys in the U-Haul, and I was kind of chuckling, because I’m going through the Flint Hills,” Dahlgren said. “I’m

like, ‘Oh, my goodness, where did I choose to live?’”

But she soon took a liking to her new surroundings.

“I know some people here complain that everything’s flat,” she said. “But it has its own beauty here.”

Dahlgren knew she wanted to start a coffee shop on the first floor of the home before she arrived in town. She missed the regulars at her old restaurant, and the property had equipment, such as an espresso machine and a metallic ice cream display case left over from a prior coffee shop.

While Dahlgren, by her own admission, didn’t know much about the intricacies of coffee — “I’d never even had a latte when I opened,” she said — she learned how to make frappes and dirty chais, hired and trained baristas, and designed a large food and drink

PLEASE SEE **CAFE** PAGE 11

Ambulance response questioned

Commissioner asks for agreements county already has

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**
Staff writer

A rural Lost Springs man’s death Thursday from an apparent heart attack prompted county commissioner Kent Becker to question interim ambulance director Mickey Price Monday whether an agreement was needed with nearby counties to respond to ambulance calls in remote areas of the county.

Such an agreement has been in place with Dickinson County since 2012, but was not invoked in the apparent heart attack death Thursday. Neither Price nor Becker was aware of the agreement when they spoke Monday.

At the time the agreement was made, then-ambulance director Steve Smith was asked to create similar contracts with Harvey and Butler counties for ambulance calls in the southern part of Marion County.

Renewed discussion of the agreement came after 60-year-old Darren Makovec was found unconscious and not breathing at a farmhouse south of 340th and Wagon Wheel Rds. He ultimately was pronounced dead after nearly an hour of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Marion ambulance, 17.3 miles away, was dispatched.

Lincolnvile first responders and Lost Springs firefighters also were paged but did not initially answer, so Marion firefighters were dispatched instead. When Lincolnvile first responders eventually answered, all but one Marion fire vehicle was told to stand down. Price also responded from Hillsboro.

Price said that when he got there, he was “pretty happy” with the number of responders who already had arrived to help

PLEASE SEE **EMS** PAGE 6

Legislator promoted conspiracy theories

By **FINN HARTNETT**
Staff writer

Newly appointed State Representative Greg Wilson promoted misinformation and conspiracy theories on two public social media accounts.

Both accounts list Abilene as Wilson’s place of residence, use his full name, and include pictures of him and family members.

One account began posting in March, 2020, and was active until Nov. 11, 2021.

The other dates back to 2014

and is still used as Wilson’s personal account.

Coronavirus appears to be a favorite topic.

Throughout the pandemic, Wilson promoted the idea that billionaire Bill Gates used vaccinations as part of a plan to depopulate the earth, that ivermectin (which treats intestinal parasites) was a valid treatment for the virus, and that the United Nations planned a “new world order” with mandatory vaccinations and microchipped

PLEASE SEE **WILSON** PAGE 11



STAFF PHOTOS BY FINN HARTNETT

Horses shown by nine contestants Sunday at Marion County Fair are judged on appearance, gait, “smoothness in the saddle,” and more.

Contestants not just horsing around

By **FINN HARTNETT**
Staff writer

Sunday’s hot weather, which peaked at 99 degrees, had decreased only slightly, to 94, when Marion County Fair’s horse show began at 6 p.m.

With zero cloud cover and an outdoor arena bereft of shade, spectators in the bleachers sipped from Big Gulp cups and sweated the showcase out.

Opinions about how much the horses would be affected by the heat were mixed.

“It does have an effect,” extension agent Brett Toews said. “Once we put a saddle pod and a blanket on, it’s just another layer of stuff they have to deal with.”

Stuart Andres, helping his 9-year-old daughter, Skylar, prepare her horse for the showcase, said differently.

“I mean, they’re animals,” Andres said. “They’re outside 24/7. Kind of like me. I work outside full-time, so I’m used to this.”

Before their turns inside the arena, horses and exhibitors waited outside in a grass lot.

Horses whinnied, nibbled at the ground, and side-eyed the cars that took their place as transportation long ago. Skylar was one of nine competitors.



A young attendant finds a rare spot of shade after climbing up into an announcer’s booth.

Her steed, Levi, was double her age at 18.

“A pretty good horse,” she said definitively, applying a final brush to Levi’s mane and tail.

Andres and Skylar began washing, combing, and grooming Levi at 2 p.m. that day.

But physical training for the competition started far earlier.

Skylar has owned and trained Levi for five years.

“We’re really only getting a snapshot of time here watching them, because at home, they’re spending hours working,” Toews said.

Extension agent Rickey Roberts, positioned next to a cooler of ice water,

PLEASE SEE **FAIR** PAGE 11

District gets down to dirty work of cleaning up water

By **FINN HARTNETT**
Staff writer

Improvements are coming to Rural Water District No. 1.

The district was in hot water earlier this month after Tampa and Ramona residents reported dark-brown water coming from their taps.

Last week, water board chairman Donald Mueller and operator Autumn Chisholm were joined by staff members from the Kansas Rural Water Association to induce flushing of large pipelines in hope of removing discolored water from the system.

“It went well,” Chisholm said Tuesday. “We started about 11:30 [p.m.] and finished about 2:15 [a.m.]”

Association employees Greg Metz and Daryn Martin are working with the district to get the



ELMER RONNEBAUM PHOTO

Rural Water Association worker Greg Metz watches as clear water gushes from a Rural Water District No. 1 hydrant after about three hours of flushing outside of Tampa.

system flushed more frequently and forcefully by adding more valves and flush points.

Association general manager Elmer Ronnebaum said previous flushing had not been strong enough to properly clean out sediment.

“The issue in the past has been that the district has not been flushing at a high enough rate to create the necessary scouring effect to move the discolored water,” he said. “People will go to the end of the line and crack a valve open and let water dribble. That’s not flushing. That’s just wasting water.”

It takes a flow rate of 230 gallons per minute to properly scour sediment off a six-inch pipe, Ronnebaum said.

He said the district’s poor flush rate had been caused by not having many flush points and not making the trips necessary to flush from the best areas.

Chisholm said there had been discolored water “in another area” of District No. 1 recently, but she declined to give specifics.

“I’m scared to answer anything, because whatever I say, it’s wrong, and you guys get it in the paper, and the whole thing blows up,” she said.

Flushing last week took place on a main pipeline west of the Tampa exit from K-15.

Ronnebaum said Mueller was committed to improving the water system.

“We have pretty high confidence that the district is going to be more forthright in looking for some alternatives to these problems,” he said. “I think in the immediate future, we can get the water to at least be more acceptable.”

The district moved July 14 to hire an engineer to evaluate its system. The district will decide

PLEASE SEE **WATER** PAGE 11

Dog bite is only an overly friendly scratch

A dog bite July 16 in Marion turned out to be only a minor scratch that needed no treatment beyond having the wound cleaned.

Interim Police Chief Zach Hudlin said the dog hadn't behaved aggressively toward the man who was bitten. The man had walked to a neighbor's fence to pet the

dog, which ran over and jumped up on the fence to greet him.

In the process, the dog's tooth scraped the man near his right clavicle.

The dog's owners provided proof that the dog was current on its rabies vaccine.

The man went to St. Luke Hospital to have the wound looked at and was told

nothing more than wound cleaning was needed.

He told hospital staff he didn't want police notified, but the hospital notified police as required by law after the man went home, Hudlin said.

"He thought we were going to impound the dog or maybe put the dog down," Hudlin said.

Deaths

'Rocky' Hett

John R. "Rocky" Hett, 81, Marion, died Monday. Services are pending.

Yazel-Megli Funeral Home, Marion, is in charge of arrangements.

A complete obituary is planned for next week's issue.

Melba Hill

Services for Melba Jean Hill, 89, who died July 15, were Monday at Ebenfeld Mennonite Brethren Church, rural Hillsboro. Burial was at the church cemetery.

Born April 2, 1936, near Hillsboro to E.W. and Helen (Ediger) Hein, she attended Finch School, five miles southeast of Hillsboro, graduated in 1954 from Hillsboro High School, and attended Tabor College in 1954-'55.

She was baptized June 23, 1950, in Schlehuber pond southwest of Hillsboro by Ebenfeld pastors J.G. Baerg and J.J. Gerbrandt.

After college, she married Adam Hill of Hillsboro. She began working in 1977 as a certified nursing assistant at Salem Home, retiring after more than 35 years there.

Survivors include sons Kim Hill of Lehigh and Rick Hill of Olathe, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Siblings Harry Hein, Edward Hein, Dalton Hein, Eileen (Hein) Nickel, and Marylynn (Hein) Mohn preceded her in death.

Memorials have been established with the church and Mennonite Brethren Foundation.

IN MEMORIAM

EXPANDED EULOGIES

"In Memoriam" listings are expanded paid obituaries, phrased as the family requests, and may include enhanced information or photographs that might not fit within free death notices.



Bettie Batt

Bettie Batt

Services for Bettie Batt, 98, Marion, who died July 7, were 2 p.m. July 12 at Eastmoor United Methodist Church, Marion.

Born Oct. 5, 1926, in Okeene, Oklahoma, to Harry and Margaret (Tiemann) Geis, she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal lord and savior and was baptized at age 12 at Zion Baptist Church in Okeene.

Bettie graduated as salutatorian of Okeene High School in 1944 and attended Baylor University, Waco, Texas, for two years.

During the summer of 1946, Bettie married Dean C. Batt, who had been discharged from the Army, and they both went

on to attend the University of Kansas.

Bettie graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and taught school in Vinland and Lecompton while Dean attended law school. They were married for almost 65 years.

In 1949, Bettie and Dean moved to Marion, where she continued teaching at Lincolnville High School, Marion Junior High, and Center High School.

Since these were post-war years, there was a shortage of home demonstration agents, so she also filled that position until Shelley, their only child, was born in 1953.

Bettie was very active in the Marion community, serving as president of the school board, Girl Scout leader, and precinct committeewoman and chairman of the Republican Party in Marion County.

She also was a member of Coterie Club and PEO and was very interested in the progress of the community.

Bettie enjoyed estate sales and collecting antique dishes and Hummel figurines.

She and Dean traveled in the United States and abroad and enjoyed continual learning by attending elder hostels.

The church had a very special place in Bettie's heart. She served as Sunday school teacher, youth leader, and United Methodist Women officer.

Bettie really enjoyed her experience as church expansion chair in 1998.

Bettie received special enjoyment from entertaining in her home and from spending time with her grandchildren.

She was a loving caregiver to her parents who were in her care for six years. Both lived into their late 90s.

Bettie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, brother Duane Geis, nephews Greg and Paul Geis, niece Ann Batt Howard, cousin Millie Friesen, and son-in-law Paul Wiest.

Surviving are daughter Shelley (and husband Mel) Hett of Oklahoma City; granddaughter Avery Archambo (and husband Ryan Whisler) of the Washington, District of Columbia, area; grandson Brady Archambo (and wife Natalie) of Austin, Texas; great-granddaughters Kaia Archambo and Liana Archambo of Austin, Texas.

Other family survivors include the children of first-cousin Millie Friesen, especially Marilyn Friesen Fast (and husband Ken) of Hillsboro; Steve Friesen (and husband Bobbie) of Newton; Debbie Friesen Phillips (and husband Bill) of Rockwall, Texas; and Grace Steele (Eldon) of Tyler, Texas.

Also surviving are Alice Geis Johnson of Longview, Texas; Cindy Batt Goertz of Winfield; and Candy Batt Pettet (and husband Tom) of Winfield; and granddogs Rizzo, Willow, and Presto.

Memorials may be directed to Gideons International or to the Eastmoor United Methodist Church in care of Yazel-Megli Funeral Home.



Darren Makovec

Darren Makovec

Funeral for Darren Robert Makovec, 60, who died unexpectedly Thursday evening, July 17, 2025, at his home near Lost Springs, will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 24, at St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church, Pilsen. A luncheon in the church hall will follow.

Visitation will be 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, at Yazel-Megli Funeral Home in Herington. Rosary will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, at the church. Darren will then be laid to rest at Delavan Cemetery in Delavan.

Darren's life began Oct. 29, 1964, in Marion, the first son of Robert and Carol Makovec. Growing up near Ramona, he attended St. John's Church through his younger years and graduated in 1983 from Centre High School.

Darren married Vicki Alvarez in 1984. They had two boys, Justin and Ryan. Their time together, though brief, was significant. After Vicki's passing, he was fortunate to find love again. He married Amy Miller in 1996. With their marriage, he gained two daughters, Dana and Ellie. Their family became complete with the birth of their third daughter, Shelby, in 1997.

Even as a young boy, Darren never shied away from hard work. He spent many hours working fields with his grandpa, dad, and brother. During lambing season, he and Mark were up at night tending to the animals.

Hard work always was balanced with play. Many nights under the yard light, Mark and Darren would take part in a competitive game of some sort. Darren even devised a little golf course by using tuna cans and a croquet mallet.

He also enjoyed fishing, hunting turtles, and rescuing

baby birds and rabbits when he wasn't working. His soft heart and passion to help remained with him for the rest of his life.

As an adult, Darren was well known to the community for being a dependable propane and fuel deliverer. He always was willing to deliver after hours or on holidays if someone needed propane, all with a smile on his face.

In addition, he served on the Centre Education Foundation and Lost Springs Fire Board and was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

All these things were a testament to his selflessness and commitment to his community. To know Darren was to know a friend. His easy, caring personality and his genuine interest in people was a gift shared by all who knew him.

Darren was an avid sports lover with his favorite times being spent playing (and winning!) softball tournaments with the Makovec family. He captained many family teams with his unique combination of athleticism and friendly competitiveness. As a lifelong Cougar fan, he often was on the sidelines, in the bleachers, or even standing in that particular spot in the doorway.

He was never prouder than when he became a grandpa. From that time forward, he never was seen without a baby in his arms. At a family gathering, a school event, or church, each new grandchild found a safe perch in Grandpa's arms. The loyalty and pride of his family, community, and church were evident in his entire life.

Darren was preceded in death by his late wife, Vicki, and grandparents John and Irma Reznicek and Albert and Pauline Makovec.

He is survived by his wife, Amy; children Dana (and husband Matt) Gray, Justin Makovec, Ryan (and wife Dani) Makovec, Ellie Miller, and Shelby (and husband Grant) Srajer; grandchildren Addie, Alex, Scarlet, Evan, Torri, Veyda, Hazel, Leo, Calvin, Kobe, Opal, and Jovie; parents Carol and Bob; and siblings Colleen (and husband Randy) Klug, Mark Makovec, Robyn (and husband Troy) Heitfield, and Jenny (and husband Paul) Forrester.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Centre Education Foundation scholarship or the Father Kapaun Legacy Fund.

Rap and splash



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

Jonathan Douglas, a Tabor College employee and Christian rap artist who uses the stage name "lovelonnie2300," performed live on Sunday at Delores Dalke Family Aquatic Center in Hillsboro.

4-H CLUB NOTES

Happy Hustlers

Eli Groening talked about showing corn at the fair, and Noah Schmidt talked about breeding cows when Happy Hustlers 4-H club met July 7 at Marion County Lake hall.

Tickets for a hog raffle were distributed, and club members discussed voting at the group's next meeting, at 7 p.m. Aug. 4 at the lake hall, to pay for fair prizes.

Thirteen members, two leaders, and six parents answered

roll by naming their favorite 4-H projects.

Antonia Baxa led the Pledge of Allegiance, Noah Schmidt led the 4-H Pledge, and Evelyn Baxa led singing of "Happy Birthday" to those with July birthdays.

Antonia Baxa also led the group in a game of Infection Tag.

Refreshments were provided by the Peters and Witty families.

Sophia Baxa, reporter

MENUS

SENIOR CENTERS

Menus subject to change. Milk available with all meals.

HILLSBORO

Reservations accepted at (620) 947-2304.

Thursday — Lemon-baked fish, roasted red potatoes, Brussels sprouts, pineapple chunks, roll.

Friday — Baked ham, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, apple cobbler, bread.

Monday — Beef enchilada, tossed salad, corn salad, chocolate cake.

Tuesday — Open-faced turkey sandwich with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, strawberry short cake.

July 30 — Polish sausage with sauerkraut on bun, potato salad, cucumber and tomato salad, fruit cocktail.

July 31 — Lasagna, Italian blend vegetables, tossed salad with dressing, lime sprinkled pears, garlic bread stick.

MARION

Reservations accepted at (620) 382-2942.

Thursday — Baked ham, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, apple cobbler, whole-wheat bread.

Friday — Fish, roasted red potatoes, Brussels sprouts, pineapple chunks, whole-wheat roll.

Monday — Opened-faced turkey

sandwich with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, strawberry shortcake.

Tuesday — Potato tot casserole, stewed tomatoes, peaches, cookie.

July 30 — Polish sausage with sauerkraut on bun, potato salad, cucumber and tomato salad, fruit cocktail.

July 31 — Lasagna, Italian blend vegetables, tossed salad, lime-sprinkled pears, garlic bread.

PEABODY

Reservations accepted at (620) 983-2226.

Thursday — Lemon-baked fish, roasted red potatoes, Brussels sprouts, pineapple chunks, dinner roll.

Friday — Baked ham, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, apple cobbler, bread.

Monday — Chicken salad with whole-wheat bread, corn, macaroni salad, cookie, fruit.

Tuesday — Open-faced turkey sandwich with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, strawberry shortcake.

July 30 — Polish sausage with sauerkraut on bun, potato salad, cucumber and tomato salad, fruit cocktail.

July 31 — Lasagna, Italian blend vegetables, tossed salad with dressing, lime sprinkled pears, garlic bread stick.

Church directory

Up-to-date schedules provided by churches

Email weekly updates to church@MarionCountyRecord.com.

AULNE BIBLE 1404 Pawnee Rd., Marion Bryan Lowery, Pastor

Worship 9:10 a.m.
Sunday school 10:45 a.m.
Nursery and children's church available during morning worship.

Wednesday — Work on Operation Christmas Child boxes, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Phoebe Janzen's house.

Thursday — Women's prayer group, 7 p.m., Betty Just's house.

Friday — Women's Bible study, 10 a.m. or 2 p.m., Phoebe Janzen's house.

FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST 201 W. 5th St., Florence

Gathering/coffee 10 a.m.

Worship 11 a.m.

Guest pastor, Wes Stewart.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH Roman Catholic churches in Florence, Marion, Pilsen, and Tampa Father Isaac Coulter

Florence 5 p.m. Saturday

Marion noon Friday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday

Pilsen. noon Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Confessions 30 minutes before every Mass for 20 minutes.

Saturday — Extra confessions, 3 p.m., Pilsen.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN 320 Cedar St., Marion John Werner, pastor

Bible class 8 a.m.
Divine service 9 a.m.
Thursday — Mission projects, 1 p.m.

OTHER AREA CHURCH SCHEDULES

ALEXANDERWOHL MENNONITE

Sunday school 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

BURDICK UNITED METHODIST

Worship 11 a.m.

BURNS CORNERSTONE BIBLE

Worship 9 a.m.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF FLORENCE

Worship 10:45 a.m.

Free breakfast 8:30 a.m.

Sunday school 9:30 a.m.

Evening service 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY OF CEDAR POINT

Worship 9 a.m.

EASTMOOR UNITED METHODIST

Worship 9:45 a.m.

EBENFELD MENNONITE BRETHREN

Worship 10:30 a.m.

EMMANUEL BAPTIST

Worship 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST OF DURHAM

Sunday school 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST OF PEABODY

Sunday school 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Facebook live 11 a.m.

GRACEPOINT

Worship 10:30 a.m.

GOOD NEWS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Worship 10:30 a.m.

HEBRON LUTHERAN OF BURDICK

Worship 9:30 a.m.

HILLSBORO FIRST MENNONITE

Sunday school 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

HILLSBORO MENNONITE BRETHREN

Sunday school 9:15 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

HILLSBORO UNITED METHODIST

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Weekly services posted on YouTube.

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN OF HILLSBORO

Liturgy 10 a.m.

MARION CHRISTIAN

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday — Bible study, 9 a.m.

MARION PRESBYTERIAN

Praise team rehearsal 8 a.m.

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sermon discussion 7:30 p.m.

PARKVIEW MENNONITE BRETHREN, HILLSBORO

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

PEABODY CHRISTIAN

Worship 10:30 a.m.

PEABODY UNITED METHODIST

Worship 10:40 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN OF LINCOLNVILLE

Worship 10:45 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN OF TAMPA

Worship 9:15 a.m.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN OF PEABODY

Worship 9 a.m.

STRASSBURG BAPTIST

Sunday school 9:45 a.m.

Worship 10:45 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN OF RAMONA

Worship 10:45 a.m.

VALLEY UNITED METHODIST

Sunday school 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:45 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN OF HILLSBORO

Bible class 9:15 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

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15 YEARS AGO

JULY 28, 2010

The state fire marshal's office has received a complaint against the Marion County Jail, so crowded that inmates are sleeping on the floor. An investigation is planned.

Sharon Kelsey displays huge tomatoes picked from her garden. Tomatoes range from 1¾ to 2 pounds each.

Amy Kjellin of rural Marion is new director of Butler Community College's Marion and Council Grove campuses. She took over July 12 for retiring director Pauline Holub.

Kjellin previously worked at Hutchinson Community College's McPherson campus and at Tabor College in Hillsboro.

Marion Boy Scouts Justin Barr and Dylan Goebel are attending the 2010 Boy Scout National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. The jamboree celebrates the 100th anniversary of scouting in the United States.

Centre graduate Alex Hajek won a John Deere all-terrain vehicle during the 82nd Kansas FFA convention.

Much space is devoted to the arrival of the first carnival in two years at Marion County Fair. Pride Amusements is the latest addition to the fair lineup because of a cancellation elsewhere.

30 YEARS AGO

AUG. 2, 1995

Pictured on the front page are Jim Christensen and Wal-ly Straub as they sign forms formally transferring Lynn's Farm Equipment dealership in Marion to Straub International of Great Bend. There will be no

interruption in service with the change of ownership.

"Beary Special Babies" born during July at St. Luke Hospital include Elizabeth Nicole Goentzel, born July 9; Kelli Anne Hess, July 18; Christian Lee Czarnowsky, July 22; Douglas Hunter Rolin, July 23; and Patrick James Glen McIntyre, July 24.

Kester Iyoha, Cooperative Grain and Supply's quality control manager, is shown as he explains to foreign visitors a system of tagging grain samples. Kester is originally from Lagos, Nigeria, a city of 6,000,000 people. He moved to Hillsboro 11 years ago.

Marion students Chris Byer and Matt Schuler were among those attending a future astronaut training program last week at Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson.

Historical treasures were uncovered as the county treasurer's vault was emptied in preparation for installation of an elevator at the courthouse. Included was the first tax book for Marion County from 1865. Though battered by the past 130 years, the book is in good condition.

45 YEARS AGO

JULY 30, 1980

Marion County Fair will celebrate its 50th anniversary by featuring grandstand events during its four-day run in August.

Theme of the fair for this year is "Fifty Years of Family Fun." The opening ceremony will be followed by the Marion County Junior Rodeo. This will be the first year for a rodeo in Hillsboro.

The grand opening of Flint Hills Clay Works will be Sat-

urday. The art gallery and pottery studio will feature works by local artists. The clay works is in the native limestone Rogers Building (former creamery) at 1st and Main Sts.

Tina Renee Ybarra, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ybarra of Lost Springs, will be a state finalist in the 1980 Baby Miss America pageant Aug. 7 at Hilton Airport Plaza Inn in Kansas City.

This week's Personality Profile is about Butch and Phyllis Mueller of Tampa, who have opened a bright and shining new restaurant in a building formerly occupied by Tampa State Bank.

More than 200 Marion County residents attended groundbreaking for Marion Senior Citizens Center on S. 3rd St. Marion Builders president Les Fruechting turned the first spade of dirt at the building site.

60 YEARS AGO

AUG. 5, 1965

A modern new building of tasteful and pleasing design is now under construction for Marion County Farm Bureau on E. Main St. in Marion. The 30-by-50-foot all-steel building will contain an office with waiting room and four inner offices.

It's the season of big tomatoes, and an even larger tomato was brought into the *Record* office this week.

Mrs. Martin Rindt of Lincolnville came in with a Tom Boy tomato that measured 15 inches around and weighed 1½ pounds.

Cottonwood Valley Saddle Horse Association will sponsor 12-year-old Melanie Hett as a candidate for Tri-County Fair

Rodeo Queen. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hett.

Mrs. Wm. D. Seibel of Marion received \$50 at this week's Cash Days drawing. Also present was Mrs. Orville Hett of Marion, who received \$10. Not present and missing out on cash were Enid Foos, Florence, \$5; Valerian Tajchman, Ramona, \$5; and Maurie Frazier, Marion, \$10.

Major G.W. Hill is remodeling his two buildings at the corner of 1st and Main Sts. New windows are being installed, and the entire face will be "lifted."

The east building will continue to house Chet's Place, but plans have not been announced for the west room.

75 YEARS AGO

AUG. 3, 1950

Dr. P.J. Garrison, official weather observer in Marion, reports 10.43 inches of rain for the month of July and believes it to be a record for July precipitation.

Marion High School's new band instructor, Kenneth W. Swanson, arrived this week and is in the high school band room daily. Students interested in band instruction can contact him there any weekday to arrange lessons and start band practice.

Paul Herpich has joined the Marion County police force as undersheriff. He replaces Abe Reh, who has efficiently filled the position for the past year and a half.

A new meat display case was installed during the week at Sanitary Market by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sandwell, owners of the popular grocery / meat market.

Two Tampa boys were saved

from possible drowning Tuesday in high waters of the Cottonwood after their car was washed off the road north of Canada.

The boys, Donald Beisel, 18, and his brother, Marvin, drove through surging water, crossing the bridge only to be stalled and then swirled around, with the car's back end off in the ditch and only the hood and part of the top above water.

The boys managed to crawl out a window onto the car top. The two were rescued because of quick thinking by nearby residents, who arrived with ropes to guide them to safety.

110 YEARS AGO

JULY 29, 1915

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Schonenman and family moved last week into their practically new home, one block east of the Rock Island station.

They literally made the place over — having raised the roof, added to the room, added a large and beautiful porch, and refinished the whole exterior.

Walter Thompson is sure some fisherman. He has a boat on the Cottonwood, and during the recent high water it got full of water. When he examined it after the water had gone down, he found a 13½-pound buffalo fish in it.

Another place that has been wonderfully improved is Mr. and Mrs. Ed Freeland's residence.

The improvements are practically completed, and the place is now one of the very attractive ones in the town. The house was enlarged, and a large, beautiful porch added.

Signs permanently marking the old Santa Fe Trail have arrived, and word from the men who are carrying out the project is that it will not be long now

until the poles and signs will be erected through this part of the state.

The George Hausers have joined the sleeping-porch crowd and are now using a fine second-story porch recently added to their residence.

Appendicitis patients at Marion Hospital — Mrs. Arthur Kelsey, Hazel Gordon, May Pumpelly, and Emma Frobenius — are getting along nicely.

145 YEARS AGO

JULY 30, 1880

We are happy to record the complete success of the temperance celebration Saturday in this city.

It was a most-gratifying success in every particular. The day was delightful, the crowd immense, and the exercises throughout highly creditable.

The city was handsomely decorated, and many were the compliments its gala appearance evoked from strangers.

C.W. Keller rejoices in a new well with 25 feet of water. Keller proposes to use part of the water in supplying a fountain, which he proposes to erect in his front yard, somewhat similar to one that graced the celebration grounds and charmed so many people last Saturday.

In the rush and excitement of celebration business last week, we neglected to mention the fact that our old friend Costello had put a delivery wagon in the field and would deliver "everything" in large or small quantities in any part of the city.

"Jack" is one of our pioneer merchants. In fact, we believe he is the oldest of the old guard now in business.

Algae advisories lowered

For the first time since May 22, Marion Reservoir no longer faces a blue-green algae advisory or warning, and what had been a warning for Marion County Lake was lowered Friday to a less serious watch.

In all, six Kansas bodies of water will be under warnings until July 25, and 12 will be under watches.

A watch indicates that a harmful bloom may be present. Kansas Department of Health and Environment requires that signs be posted at all public access points.

Visitors are warned that water may be unsafe for humans and animals. Swimming, wading, skiing, and jet skiing are discouraged near visible blooms. Boating and fishing are safe, but inhalation of spray might affect some people.

Direct contact with water should be avoided, and visitors should wash with clean water.

An algae bloom could look like foam, scum, or paint floating on the water and be colored blue, bright green, brown, or red. Blooms can develop rapidly.

Symptoms of illness vary depending on the species of algae. Common symptoms may include rash, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, sore throat, and headache.

Blood drives planned

Blood drives are planned for 1:15 to 6:15 p.m. today at Eastmoor United Methodist Church in Marion and 1 to 6 p.m. Aug. 4 at Goessel Church in Goessel.

Appointments are being accepted at <http://redcrossblood.org>.

Donors in Goessel will receive a \$15 gift card and a free A1C test that helps diagnose and monitor diabetes.

Historical district meeting delayed

By PHYLLIS ZORN

Staff writer

A public hearing on development of a downtown Marion historical district, originally scheduled for Monday evening, was postponed to an uncertain date.

City Administrator Bryan Wells told council members Monday that he had made attempts to reach Ben Moore Studio, the architectural firm that

began working on the project in 2019, but had not heard back.

Getting the downtown declared a historical district would open the door to tax credits to pay for building improvements.

The project stalled during 2020's COVID-19 pandemic, when public meetings could not be scheduled.

Ben Moore Studio was enlisted to shepherd the pro-

gram this time around. The process usually takes a year to a year and a half.

When the downtown area was surveyed in 2019, a total of 44 buildings — nearly all of Marion's downtown — were nominated for the Kansas Historical Society to review.

This time around, a slightly larger section of town is being considered for inclusion.

The buildings were in an

area that includes Main St. from Walnut to 5th Sts., 3rd St. from Valley United Methodist Church to Marion City Library, and adjoining areas.

Once the proposed district is submitted to the state, it will be hard to add buildings to it, Moore said.

Buildings have to be at least 50 years old.

FIRE: Concerns apparently aired

FROM PAGE 1

"It's an internal personnel matter at this time that we're evaluating," Wells said of the meeting with firefighters.

Wells said he didn't know about firefighters' response to Monday's fire until a reporter for the *Record* told him.

"I learned about the mic press thing that I was not knowledgeable about," Wells said.

Contacted Monday about the department's short-handed response to the hay fire, Mayor Mike Powers said he hadn't known about it.

"The information you have provided surprises me," Pow-

ers said. "We will certainly look into it."

Powers didn't confirm or deny meeting with firefighters and Wells. He said he didn't have enough information to comment but would when he had more information.

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Later Monday, although they eventually weren't needed, a larger number of responded to a dispatch to join Hillsboro and Durham firefighters at a fire caused by lightning striking a service station's canopy in Hillsboro.

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Totally tubular!



Two trucks carrying massive cylindrical tanks rolled down Marion’s Main St on Tuesday morning. Kansas Department of Transportation officials in Salina said they did not know what was inside the tanks. “All we know is that they were passing through the state, and that it was a steel tank,” employee Ashley Perez said. Mya Patton, an employee at Mueller Transportation, which operated the trucks, later confirmed that the tanks were empty and being moved from Springfield, Missouri, to Texas. SpaceX, the private rocket company owned by Elon Musk, has launch facilities in Brownsville, Texas, and previously has sent oversize tanks for rockets through Marion County.

STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

STORM: 60 mph wind preceded rain

FROM PAGE 1

ed and landed right in front of a car, crushing a fence as it fell. “Then we had a hay bale fire,” Hostetler said. “Every day was called on a tree that went down on Kanza Rd.” During the storm, water flowed over Goldenrod Rd. near Durham. “The water was all the way over that road,” Hostetler said. “It fills up the creek west of Durham by Goldenrod pretty quick.” The storm didn’t hit the

county evenly. Some areas had more rain and others not so much. Hostetler said Marion Reservoir’s level had been lowered enough before the storm that the rain didn’t have much of an effect. “I did not run any chainsaws at all, so I didn’t get in any trouble for it,” Hostetler said. “We did share all this information with National Weather Service. Usually you let them know what damage you have in your county so they can judge the severity of the storm.”

She encouraged anyone who has damage reports to email or call. “I think many people forgetting they should tell the county this,” she said. She will be speaking in the near future at Hillsboro and Goessel city council meetings about reporting storm damage. Monday night’s thunderstorm wasn’t the only weather danger in the forecast Tuesday. Temperatures are predicted to be above 90 degrees for

all but two days of the next two weeks, and those days are predicted to be near 90 degrees. “One of the things I keep saying is make sure you are drinking enough water and staying hydrated,” Hostetler said. “Make sure you are thinking about your pets, taking them water and helping them stay hydrated.” People who don’t have air conditioning should keep in mind there are air-conditioned places to go such as libraries, city buildings, and other places.”

DRINKS: Legal status unclear

FROM PAGE 1

at the store and contacted officer Aaron Slater. Slater called Alcoholic Beverage Control, which told him the agency was letting local agencies handle enforcement. Hudlin said police would follow up. Ann Bush, managing partner of City Beverage’s sister company, Three Loons Distributing, said the products were made with hemp extract Delta 9 and are legal to market under state law. Zane A. Gilmer and Alisa N. Ehrlich, lawyers with Stinson

law firm in Denver, wrote a detailed letter to the Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association saying that most products made from Delta 9 hemp that contained less than 0.3% THC were legal to sell in the state. Exceptions include cigarettes, cigars, chew, dip, and other smokeless material containing industrial hemp; teas containing industrial hemp; liquids, solids, or gases containing industrial hemp for use in vaporizing devices; and hemp products intended for human or animal consumption containing any ingredient prohib-



STAFF PHOTO BY PHYLLIS ZORN

Two boxes of beverage containing THC are being held by Marion police after being seized from Carlsons’ Grocery. Carlson said he doubted the store would order more of the product after police seized his merchandise.

FOOD: Church tries to fill void from commodities cuts

FROM PAGE 1

tor, Mary Jane Grimmert, knew she had to act. “I’ve always felt the Bible tells us that we’re supposed to be Jesus’s hands and feet,” Grimmert said. “That’s why I decided I had to do this.” She launched a free food pantry inside Florence United Methodist. The church ran a pantry in the past but shut it down in 2021 after the board could not afford to run it, Grimmert said. The church also sponsored the commodities program for more than a decade. Before that, Florence’s share of commodities was handled by seniors at the Masonic Lodge. “The senior citizens were doing it, but there weren’t enough of them to do it, and so one lady said, ‘Here’s the keys to the lock. You need to be in charge,’” Grimmert said. The commodities program had six volunteers and fed 40 households every two months. Residents lined up outside the church a half-hour before opening time to collect their food. “I knew we had people go through the line and take commodities that didn’t qualify, but I wasn’t going to say, ‘You can’t have them,’” Grimmert said. “That’s between them and God.” While Grimmert doubts that the pantry will be as popular as the commodities program, she sees a need for charitable organizations in Florence, where 17.9% of people live below the poverty line. The county average is 10%. “I worry about people, if they have enough,” Grimmert

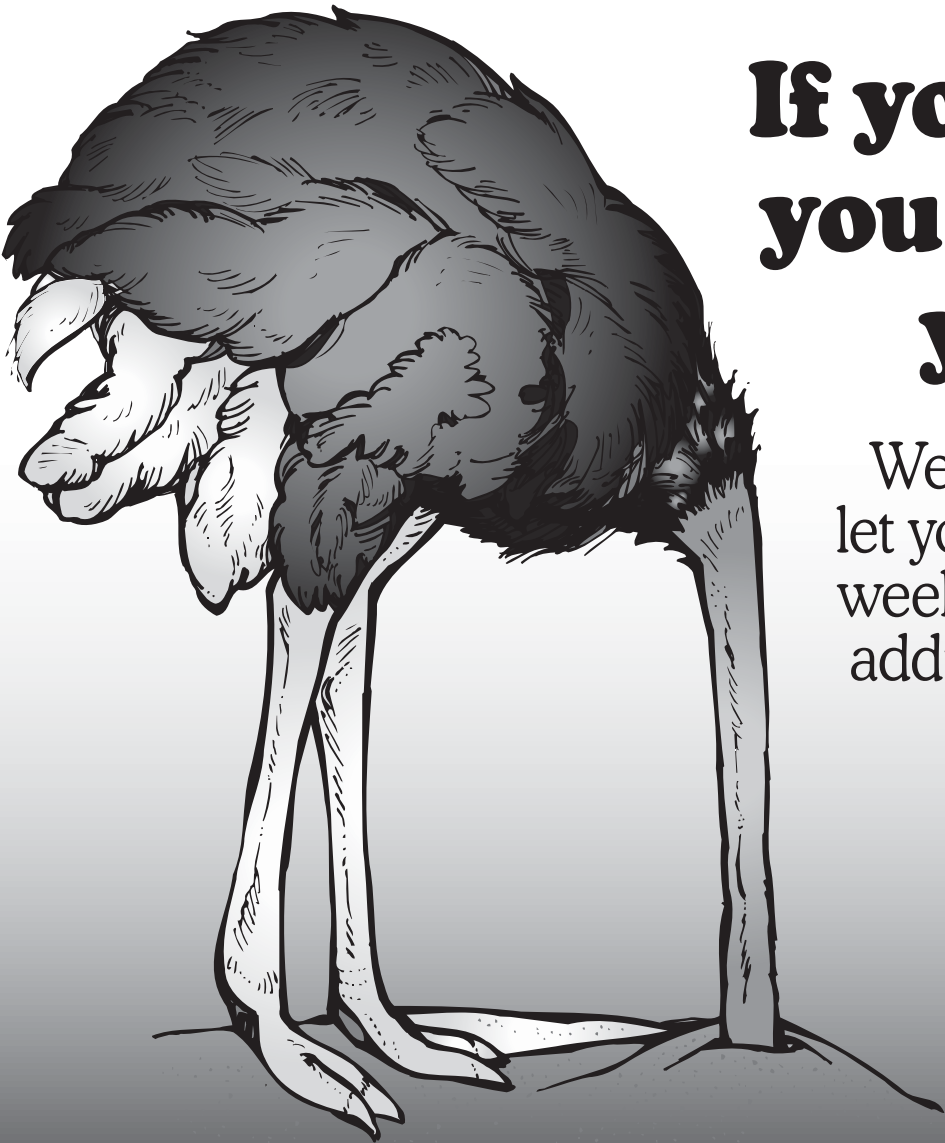
said. “I don’t think they’re going to knock on the door and say, ‘I need food. I need food,’ but it’s here if they need it.” Grimmert was disappointed in the federal government for pulling funding from the commodities program, which is managed by Kansas Department of Children and Families. “I could just cry,” she said. “I have no idea when we’re going to get commodities again. The food is up there in Concordia, but they don’t have the money to deliver it.” DCF administrators told Department of Aging director Lu Turk last month that hiring private drivers to bring the food to Marion was not permitted. Right now, the church is paying for pantry food — canned corn, chili, pudding — largely out of pocket. Members are hoping to receive more donations as time goes on. A few Florentines have called or reached out over social media, Grimmert said. Brandin’ Iron is selling the pantry hamburger meat at market price. The pantry does not have hours, but anyone can book an appointment by calling Grimmert at (620) 381-1302. There is no income requirement for those taking pantry food, but Grimmert was zen about the idea that demand could exceed the church’s supply. “When word gets out,” she said, “we’ll just have to go buy more.”

EMS: Mutual aid pacts sought

FROM PAGE 3

the patient. Four medical personnel, two deputies, and several firefighters were there to help with chest compressions, which callers began under dispatchers’ instructions even before the responders arrived. Becker said Monday that the county needed agreements for areas where “we don’t have first responders 15 miles out.” “It may not happen very often, but if one time it saves

someone’s life, it’s worth it,” Becker said. Like Becker, Price, who has been with the ambulance service since 2016, was unaware of the 2012 agreement. “I guess I’ll get in touch with Mr. Becker, get in touch with the sheriff,” Price said. “I guess if we already have the agreement, we already have the agreement.” He said he would find out whether the agreement needed to be updated.



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Items on this page are obtained from inspection of public records, are supplied by public agencies as a matter of routine, or are gathered by monitoring of public radio frequencies. Involved parties sometimes request that embarrassing items be excluded. However, no public agency is legally allowed to withhold information that is part of the public record, and to be fair to all, the newspaper never excludes any item unless it is legally removed from the public record by legislation or court action.

ACCIDENTS REPORTED

No new accident reports were released this past week by law enforcement agencies. The sheriff's department released two reports, but the same reports had been released for last week's newspaper.

CIVIL DIVISION CASES

This information was filed last week in civil division of district court. If no address is listed, no address was available.

Midland Credit Management filed a petition July 16 seeking to have an April 27, 2023, judgment of \$1,119.26 against Jocelyn Alfaro for unpaid credit card bills converted to a lien.

Midland Credit Management filed a petition July 16 seeking to have an Aug. 5, 2021, judgment of \$4,009.49 against Billie Brooks for unpaid credit card bills converted to a lien.

Newton Healthcare Corp. filed suit July 16 against Misty Lynn Croucher seeking \$912.54 plus costs and interest for unpaid medical bills.

Newton Healthcare Corp. filed suit July 7 against Cory Mathew and Virginia Stanford seeking garnishment for \$912.54 plus costs and interest for unpaid medical bills.

Amy Park was ordered July 15 to pay Midland Credit Management \$1,240.16 plus costs and interest for unpaid credit card bills.

Midland Credit Management filed a petition July 16 seeking to have a Jan. 22, 2024, judgment of \$1,759.92 against Mary Rauh for unpaid credit card bills converted to a lien.

COUNTY JAIL ARRESTS AND BOOKINGS

This jail roster was obtained Tuesday from the jail's inmate listing system.

NEW JAILINGS

Malek H.S. Brown, 50, Wichita, arrested Friday by a state trooper on suspicion of failing to display evidence of vehicle liability insurance and driving while his license was canceled, suspended, or revoked. Released 10½ hours later after posting a \$2,000 bond.

Zachary S. Dvorak, 28, Galva, jailed Saturday for 48 hours on court orders. Previously jailed six times for a total of all or part of 171 days between May 13, 2018, and Aug. 19, 2024. Previous jailings were on suspicion of domestic battery, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, driving without a required anti-drinking ignition interlock twice, making a criminal threat, interfering with law enforcement officer, battery of a law enforcement officer, and driving an unregistered vehicle; for allegedly violating his probation; for failing to appear in court four times; and on court orders.

Bill W. Hughes, 31, New Century, jailed July 15 for failing to appear in court. Released nine hours later after posting a \$1,500 bond.

Joshua J. Smalley, 41, Peabody, arrested Thursday by a sheriff's deputy for failing to appear in court. Held in lieu of posting a \$5,000 bond. Previously jailed six times for all or part of 106 days between Jan. 22, 2018, and May 19, 2025. Previous jailings were on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, failing to display evidence of vehicle liability insurance, interfering with law enforcement by falsely reporting a crime, and driving while his license was canceled, suspended, or revoked; for failing to appear in court; for allegedly violating his probation twice; and on court orders.

FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

Joshua A. Bradley, 40, Sylvan Grove, jailed since June 27.

Matthew W. Dudte, 52, Canton, since Dec. 19, 2023.

Ernest L. Edens, 50, no address listed, May 20, 2024.

Joseph E. Fiedler, 28, Wichita, July 7.

Paul A. Huddleston, 27, Marion, March 29.

Richard T. Litton, 39, Peabody, Oct. 20.

James R.A. McColl, 52, Lehigh, Jan. 19.

Mitchell W. McMillen, 47, Peabody, June 7.

Nicholas C. Peterson, 41, Peabody, June 5.

Eric C. Pettit, 42, Galva, Feb. 14.

Bane L. Spurlin, 21, Hillsboro, March 28.

Brandon S. Toon, 40, Arkansas City, Nov. 13.

Athen J. Turner, 24, Loveland, Colorado, Jan. 31.

Christopher L. Walker, 19, Hillsboro, May 23.

CRIMINAL DIVISION CASES

This information was filed last week in criminal division of district court. If no address is listed, no address was available on court records or from jail booking records.

Andre O. Flores, 48, Weatherford, Texas, formally was charged July 16 with possession of methamphetamine and marijuana, driving under the influence of drugs or a combination of drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, and speeding.

Chad P. Ingels, 41, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, formally was charged July 17 with possession of marijuana, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, possession of drug paraphernalia, and speeding.

Ian A. Weisbeck, 48, Hillsboro, pleaded no contest July 7 to attempted vehicular burglary. A charge of criminal trespass was dismissed. Sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 23.

DEEDS RECORDED

These deeds were reported last week as recorded by the register of deeds. Property addresses come from appraisal records. Agricultural property descriptions use common road references derived from appraisal records.

Bruce Potter Berns to Bruce P. and Pamela F. Berns, trustees, 156.76 acres north of 100th Rd. between Timber and Union Rds.

Nelson M. Patton Trust to Whitney Enterprises LLC, trustee deed to 106 E. 2nd St., Peabody.

Stucky Management LLC to Scott Koehn, 44.66 acres southeast of Eagle and 130th Rds.

In separate transactions, Amy and Michael Ward to Amy Ward Revocable Trust and Michael Ward Revocable Trust, transfer-on-death warranty deed to 4 Lois Ln. Marion County Park and Lake.

In separate transactions, Terry and Julie Deines to themselves as trustees, 2023 350th Rd., 78.68 acres southeast of Timber and 360th Rds., and 57.83 acres south of 370th Rd. between Indigo and Kanza Rds.

David B. and Judy A. Greenberg to Angie Zaragoza Jasso and Juan Paulo Zaragoza Jasso, quitclaim deed to 413 S. Washington St., Hillsboro.

Jacqueline and Michael Sigwing to Kevin D. and Janet Robinson, quitclaim deed to 142.29 acres north of US-50 between Yarrow and Bluestem Rds., 104.61 acres southeast of 110th and Union Rds., 47.51 acres south of US-50 between Wagonwheel and Union Rds., 258.5 130th Rd., and 1.59 acres south of US-50 between Yarrow and Alfalfa Rds.

Brent A. and Jaime L. Driggers to themselves as trustees, 1105 Parkway Ct., Hillsboro.

Michael J. Mowat Revocable Trust to Kodi and Randy Kelsey and Jason Sader, trustee deed to 16 Rock Rd., Marion County Park and Lake.

Weekend Note Buyer LLC to Stanley R. Lerner, 620 Main St., Florence.

City of Marion to Linda G. Kannady, 2 lots in Marion Cemetery.

City of Marion to Joseph P. Palic, a lot in St. Mark Catholic Section, Marion Cemetery.

Alex and Kendra Arnold to Errol and Jennifer Wuertz, 78.17 acres east of Diamond Rd., between 120th and 130th Rds.

Kirk Alan Wyatt, trustee, to Jeffrey A. and Julie A. Scharping, trustee deed to 3 Hill Rd., Marion County Park and Lake.

Tracy R. and Dara J. Halydier to Dana and Karin Romaine, 317 N. Elm St., Hillsboro.

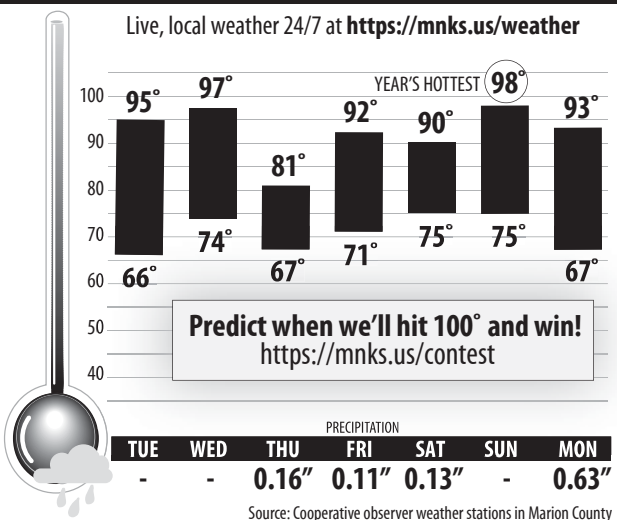
Danny J. Bradfield to Gary Bradfield, 528 N. Cedar St., Marion.

Dwayne Stika to Eugene Duke, 620 S. Cedar St., Marion.

Gail L. and Louise A. Whiteman

WEATHER

July 15 through 21, 2025



Trust to Jarvis D. Whiteman, trustee deed to 2174 Pawnee Rd. along with 32.37 acres.

Cody and Danielle Wiebe to Carl David and Sabine Hector, 125 County Rd., Tampa.

Antonio J. and Nichole R. Rivera to Cody D. and Danielle B. Wiebe, 208 E. Grand Ave., Hillsboro.

EMERGENCY DISPATCHES

Broadcasts about these fire and ambulance calls were monitored this past week by the newspaper:

JULY 15

9:32 a.m. — An 81-year-old man with low blood-oxygen level was transferred by Hillsboro ambulance to a physician's orders from Parkside Homes in Hillsboro to NMC Health, formerly Newton Medical Center.

10:07 a.m. — A fire alarm at the Sports and Aquatics Center in Marion was determined by Marion firefighters to have been a false alarm caused by a student.

3:53 p.m. — An 81-year-old woman who fell and hurt her hip at Parkside Apartments in Hillsboro was taken to NMC Health by Hillsboro ambulance. An ambulance supervisor also responded.

JULY 16

9:33 a.m. — A 79-year-old man not responding normally at a home in the 200 block of Briarwood Ln. in Hillsboro was taken to NMC Health by Hillsboro ambulance. An ambulance supervisor also responded.

1:19 p.m. — A 69-year-old woman with stroke symptoms was transferred by Marion ambulance from St. Luke Hospital, Marion, to Wesley Medical Center, Wichita.

2:07 p.m. — A 53-year-old letter carrier suffering heat exhaustion in a mail truck at Lawrence and Elm Sts. in Marion was taken to St. Luke by a Hillsboro backup ambulance, filling in for Marion ambulance, which was traveling to Wichita. An ambulance supervisor also responded.

6:25 p.m. — A 32-year-old man with chest pains was transferred by Marion ambulance from St. Luke to Salina Regional Health Center, where the ambulance briefly was delayed, waiting for a nurse.

8:31 p.m. — Florence firefighters stood by for 50 minutes during a fire-works display.

THURSDAY

10:44 a.m. — A 90-year-old woman who fell and was bleeding in a shop in the 200 block of W. Grand Ave. in Hillsboro declined to be taken to a hospital by Hillsboro ambulance.

4:12 p.m. — Fire in a vehicle partially in the roadway at 110th and Nighthawk Rds. was extinguished within 20 minutes by Peabody firefighters.

6:27 p.m. — A 60-year-old man unconscious and not breathing at a farmhouse south of 340th and Wagon Wheel Rds. was pronounced dead by Marion ambulance attendants af-

ter he received cardiopulmonary resuscitation for nearly an hour. An ambulance supervisor from Hillsboro also responded. Lincolnville first responders and Lost Springs firefighters were paged but did not initially answer, so Marion firefighters were dispatched instead. When Lincolnville first responders eventually answered, all but one Marion fire vehicle was told to stand down.

9:34 p.m. — A 79-year-old woman who fell at a house in the 1000 block of Denver St. in Marion was taken to St. Luke by Marion ambulance.

10:11 p.m. — An 86-year-old man with unspecified symptoms was transferred by Hillsboro ambulance from Parkside Homes to NMC Health.

FRIDAY

9:21 a.m. — A fire alarm at Hillsboro Community Child Care Center was found by Hillsboro firefighters to have been a false alarm triggered by dust from construction.

2:23 p.m. — A 61-year-old man with gastrointestinal bleeding was transferred by Hillsboro ambulance from St. Luke to Wesley. The call originally was assigned to Marion ambulance.

6:46 p.m. — A woman having trouble breathing, possibly because of an allergic reaction to medication, at a farmhouse near 110th and Goldendrod Rds. was taken to NMC Health by Hillsboro ambulance. Goessel first responders provided initial care.

11:43 p.m. — An 87-year-old woman with gastrointestinal bleeding was transferred by Hillsboro ambulance from Hillsboro Community Hospital to Ascension Via Christi St. Francis Hospital, Wichita.

SATURDAY

11:13 a.m. — Hillsboro ambulance transferred an unspecified patient from HCH to NMC Health.

12:15 p.m. — A 52-year-old man who passed out after coughing at a home in the 200 block of S. Main St. in Hillsboro was taken to HCH by Hillsboro ambulance. Hillsboro first responders provided initial care until the ambulance returned from Newton.

5:46 p.m. — A 52-year-old man, pale, clammy, and drifting in and out of consciousness at Cottonwood Point at Marion Reservoir, was taken to NMC Health by Hillsboro ambulance. An ambulance supervisor based in Hillsboro also responded. Tampa ambulance was ordered to stand by in Hillsboro in case of additional calls until 6:50 p.m., when Marion ambulance announced that it was fully staffed.

5:50 p.m. — A fire alarm at Westview Manor in Peabody was determined by Peabody firefighters to have been a false alarm.

7:03 p.m. — A 46-year-old woman who fell and broke an ankle at a house in the 600 block of N. Lincoln St. in Tampa was taken to Salina Regional by Tampa ambulance.

SUNDAY

12:23 a.m. — Another fire alarm at Westview Manor was determined by Peabody firefighters to once again be a false alarm.

1:04 a.m. — A third alarm at West-

view Manor also was determined to be a false alarm. A technician was called to repair the nursing home's alarm system.

6:44 p.m. — An automated alert from a smart watch indicating someone had fallen in the 600 block of Main St. in Florence was determined by Marion ambulance attendants to have been accidentally activated.

9 p.m. — An uncontrollably shaking 94-year-old woman at Parkside Homes was taken to HCH by Hillsboro ambulance.

MONDAY

5:09 a.m. — A 77-year-old man who fell and stopped breathing at Parkside Homes apartments in Hillsboro was pronounced dead by Hillsboro ambulance attendants. An ambulance supervisor, a coroner, and Hillsboro firefighters and police also responded.

8:27 a.m. — Hillsboro firefighters supervised a controlled burn south of Country Inn motel.

10:18 a.m. — An unresponsive man lying on the ground at a residence on US-56 west of Upland Rd. was taken to St. Luke by Marion ambulance.

11:39 a.m. — Fire in cut hay south of 170th and Clover Rds. was battled by short-staffed Marion firefighters, who had to ask for help from Florence. Only two firefighters in a single brush truck answered an initial page along with Marion's fire chief, so Florence firefighters were called to bring a tanker and two brush trucks. After no one answered a repeated page for Marion firefighters at 12:01 a.m., Cedar Point firefighters were summoned as well. The fire was extinguished and hot spots checked by 12:31 p.m.

4:53 p.m. — Fire in a swather and adjoining grass near 110th and Indigo Rds. was extinguished by the person who reported it before Goessel firefighters could respond with a tanker and three brush trucks.

5:24 p.m. — A person breathing abnormally at Homestead Affordable Housing, Marion, was taken to St. Luke by Marion ambulance. An ambulance supervisor from Hillsboro also responded.

10 p.m. — A 12-year-old boy who fell in the 500 block of Lawrence Ave. in Durham declined to be taken to a hospital by Hillsboro ambulance. Durham first responders initially evaluated the patient.

10:27 p.m. — Debris atop the Sinclair gasoline station's canopy in Hillsboro was ignited, probably by lighting, but the fire was put out by torrential rain that rolled through the area. Hillsboro, Marion, and Durham firefighters and the county emergency manager all were dispatched. Unlike for the fire at 11:39 a.m., multiple Marion firefighters responded. All but Hillsboro firefighters were told to stand down after Hillsboro's fire chief arrived and reported that the fire was out.

10:46 p.m. — A 60-mph wind gust caused a power failure in Hillsboro.

11:12 p.m. — A 60-mph gust caused a power failure and downed tree limbs of 8 to 10 inches in diameter in Burns.

OFFENSES REPORTED

No offense reports were released this past week by law enforcement agencies.

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORTS

Law enforcement agencies provided these reports of their activities this past week. Routine activities such as patrols, inspections, training, report-writing, and assistance to other agencies are excluded. Dates may reflect starting

or ending dates of officers' shifts rather than actual dates of occurrence.

HILLSBORO

July 14 — Police found no problems in checking on a resident of the 400 block of S. Birch St. and in assisting the Department of Children and Families with a separate child-welfare case.

July 15 — Police helped a resident remove old tires that had been left on the resident's property. A resident reported a scam. Police inspected a golf cart the owner of which was applying for a city permit.

July 16 — A dog was reported loose in the 300 block of W. D St. An alarm at Vintage Bank proved to be accidental. No problems were found in checking on a resident of the 300 block of N. Main St. Police discussed street closures for the county fair and provided security each day through Sunday for a baseball tournament.

Thursday — An alarm at Hillsboro High School proved to be a test.

Friday — A skunk reported in the 300 block of N. Birch St. was not found. Police checked streetlights and city code issues such as unmowed lawns. A driver was warned for making a J-turn in the 100 block of W. Grand Ave.

Saturday — A traffic complaint led to extra patrols of the 200 block of S. Date St. Unspecified recovered property was returned to its owner. The driver of a vehicle parked at US-56 and Jade St. was found to be resting.

Sunday — Police checked on a residence that owners had asked to be watched while they were away.

MARION

July 14 — A reportedly fraudulent check passed in the 1100 block of E. Main St. remains under investigation. Drivers were warned for having a defective headlight near Main and Roosevelt St. and for having a defective license plate light near US-56 and Cedar St., where the driver also was ticketed for having no proof of vehicle liability insurance. Police talked to a person about a court order for bidding contact.

July 15 — Drivers were warned for having improper vehicle lights near Main and Elm Sts., for speeding near US-56 and Cedar St., and for having a defective tag light at the same intersection. The latter driver also was ticketed for having no proof of insurance.

July 16 — A minor, apparently accidental dog bite was reported in the 200 block of N. Cedar St. A reported leak from a fire hydrant in the 300 block of S. 1st St. was not found. A driver was warned for texting while driving near Main and Cedar Sts.

Thursday — Police talked to a driver about loud exhaust in the 1000 block of E. Main St.

Friday — A driver was warned for speeding near US-56 and Timber Rd. No problems were found in checking on a disabled vehicle at the same intersection.

Saturday — Beverages containing THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, were seized after a vendor delivered them to Carlsons' Grocery; the case has been referred to the county attorney for possible prosecution. Drivers were warned for failing to signal a turn at Elm and Sherman Sts. and for having a defective taillight near US-56 and Cedar St.

Sunday — A driver was warned for failing to signal a turn near Main and 4th Sts., and two drivers were warned at US-56 and Cedar St., one for speeding and one for having a defective headlight.

Business directory

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CLASSIFICATIONS

1 Personals	14 Real estate
2 Pets	15 Homes for sale
3 Lost & found	16 Dwellings for rent
4 Garage sales	17 For rent
5 Public auctions	18 Help wanted
6 Wanted	19 Work wanted
7 For sale	20 Bus. opportunity
8 Livestock	21 Special notices
9 Food	22 Special services
10 Cars & trucks	23 Cards of thanks
11 Land	24 Kansas classified
12 Feed & seed	25 Public notices
13 Lawn & garden	

4 GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. 412 W. B St., Hillsboro.

7 FOR SALE

FRESH, YOUNG, home-raised, grain-fed beef for sale. Various cuts: roasts, steaks, minute steaks, hamburgers, 1- and 2-pound packages. Call (785) 479-7555 for more information, pricing, and delivery scheduling.

17 FOR RENT

STORAGE UNITS available - North Roosevelt or South 3rd Street, Marion. Many sizes, yearly rates. Call Jim, (316) 284-2231 or call (316) 284-1299.

18 HELP WANTED

21 SPECIAL NOTICES

FACED WITH a drinking problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) can help. Weekly meetings. Open to the public. Come see us 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at St. Luke Medical Clinic basement, 537 S. Freeborn St., Marion.

MARION CHAPTER of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 9:30 a.m. Thursdays, Hilltop Manor, 1501 E. Lawrence St., Marion.

24 KANSAS CLASSIFIED

PLACE YOUR 25-word classified in the Kansas Press Association and 135 more newspapers for only \$300 a week. Find employees; sell your home or your car. Call the Kansas Press Association at (785) 271-5304 today!

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25 PUBLIC NOTICES

First published July 9, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (3t)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BANK MERGER

Notice is hereby given that the SJN Bank of Kansas, St. John, Kansas, has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for its written consent to merge with Tampa State Bank, Tampa, Kansas. It is contemplated that the banking offices of Tampa State Bank located at 326 Main St., Tampa, Kansas, and 1100 E Main, Marion, Kansas, will operate under the name Tampa State Bank, a branch of SJN Bank of Kansas.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Region-

PLEASE SEE **CLASSIFIED** PAGE 9

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
French Creek Cemetery, Marion County

will meet on August 4, 2025 at 7:00 PM at French Creek Cemetery (924 220th, Hillsboro) for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to levied. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., Marion, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax
General	1,049	0.177	2,147	0.180	53,699	774
Totals	1,049	0.177	2,147	0.180	53,699	774
Revenue Neutral Rate**						0.167
Less: Transfers	0		0		0	
Net Expenditures	1,049		2,147		53,699	
Total Tax Levied	772		771			
Assessed Valuation	4,352,802		4,279,737		4,623,613	
Outstanding Indebtedness,						
Jan 1,	2023		2024		2025	
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0	
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0	
Other	0		0		0	
Lease Pur. Princ.	0		0		0	
Total	0		0		0	

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Cheryl Bartel, Clerk

M-45-2768

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Prairie Lawn Cemetery, Marion County

will meet on September 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Peabody Senior Center, 106 N Walnut St, Peabody, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied and Revenue Neutral Rate. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., Marion, KS and will be available at this hearing.

SUPPORTING COUNTIES

Marion County (home county) Harvey County

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax
General	88,943	2.533	72,846	2.431	292,184	65,131
Totals	88,943	2.533	72,846	2.431	292,184	65,131
Revenue Neutral Rate**						2.382
Less: Transfers	0		0		0	
Net Expenditures	88,943		72,846		292,184	
Total Tax Levied	63,846		63,832		x	
Assessed Valuation	25,198,888		26,254,917		26,791,816	
Outstanding Indebtedness,						
Jan 1,	2023		2024		2025	
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0	
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0	
Other	0		0		0	
Lease Pur. Princ.	0		0		0	
Total	0		0		0	

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Randy Dallke, President

M-45-2781

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Logan Township, Marion County

will meet on August 15, 2025 at 7:30 PM at 3474 Diamond Rd, Tampa, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., Marion, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax
General	360	0.377	590	0.384	9,772	782
Special Machinery						
Totals	360	0.377	590	0.384	9,772	782
Revenue Neutral Rate**						0.382
Less: Transfers	0		0		0	
Net Expenditure	360		590		9,772	
Total Tax Levied	782		782			
Assessed Valuation:						
Township	2,073,771		2,033,361		2,046,616	
Outstanding Indebtedness,						
Jan 1,	2023		2024		2025	
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0	
Other	0		0		0	
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0	
Total	0		0		0	

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Lane K. Dyck, Treasurer

M-45-2783

First published July 16, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Marion County Improvement District #2, Kansas

Will meet on August 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Maintenance Building Impr. Dist #2, 8 Ridgeway, Marion County Lake, Marion, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Maintenance Building Impr. Dist. #2 by appt. 316-322-0469 and will be at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax
General	13,912	2.122	15,984	2.333	22,149	12,033
Debt Service						
Library						
Sewer Operating - Maint	97,492		150,491		227,587	
Sewer Reserve for Re- placement	14,155		40,499		179,269	
Water Reserve for Re- placements	35,000		36,800		124,625	
Debt Service/Capital Res	41,309		43,819		110,220	
Water Operating - Maint	127,38		139,549		336,635	
Totals	329,248	2.122	427,142	2.333	1,000,485	12,033
Revenue Neutral Rate**						2.157
Less: Transfers	47,000		94,400		104,000	
Net Expenditures	282,248		332,742		896,483	
Total Tax Levied	9,917		12,037			
Assessed Valuation	4,673,340		5,157,672		5,578,606	

Outstanding Indebtedness,

Jan 1,	2023		2024		2025	
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0	
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0	
Other	298,542		266,082		197,267	
Lease Pur. Princ.	0		0		0	
Total	298,542		266,082		197,267	

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Greg Wyatt, President

M-45-2784

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

CITY OF HILLSBORO QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
April - June 2025

FUND	BEG. BAL- ANCE 4/1/2025	RECEIPTS	DISBURSE- MENTS	END. BAL- ANCE 6/30/2025
GENERAL FUNDS				
General Operating Fund	41,477.02	952,766.56	855,037.75	139,205.83
Library Fund	47,674.55	33,973.32	34,097.84	47,550.03
Recreation Fund	13,061.17	7,545.29	-	20,606.46
Industrial Fund	6,644.33	10,161.43	4,222.23	12,583.53
Airport Revolving Fund	1,514.83	1,022.58	1,916.58	620.83
Special Parks & Recreation	4,919.50	339.13	2,780.93	2,477.70
Bowling Alley	39,268.73	9,010.75	18,778.06	29,501.42
Special Highway Fund	105,479.43	16,588.10	-	122,067.53
Special Law Enforcement	77,432.67	11,212.89	2,935.02	85,710.54
Municipal Court	1,550.94	4,993.00	4,652.00	1,891.94
Dare Fund	345.03	-	-	345.03
Local Sales Tax	376,402.95	80,721.45	18,675.00	438,449.40
Equipment Reserve	50,787.11	23,426.95	18,269.78	55,944.28
Fire Equip Replacement	157,050.15	-	6,825.02	150,225.13
TIF District	664.27	10,616.16	183.54	11,096.89
TRUST AND AGENCY FUNDS				
Museum Trust Fund	43,195.70	207.22	-	43,402.92
Land Bank	12,663.04	2,115.92	4,090.36	10,688.60
Withholding Fund	8,157.05	-	-	8,157.05
Sales Tax Fund	14,411.74	21,117.66	20,965.78	14,563.62
CDBG Fund	42,503.73	67,498.47	67,439.47	42,562.73
Health Savings Fund	103,233.31	29,491.61	42,338.58	90,386.34
HCMC Plant Prop & Equip Reserve	84,893.82	16,944.38	22,620.00	79,218.20
Spec Law Enforcement Trust Fund	7,387.68	-	-	7,387.68
CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS				
Capital Improvements	10,326.02	20,000.00	12,584.03	17,741.99
Tree Screening	4,433.24	-	-	4,433.24
Street Improvement Project	767,019.22	183,777.22	136,268.87	814,527.57
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS				
Bond & Interest Fund	154,753.56	47,998.07	-	202,751.63
ENTERPRISE FUNDS				
Water Utility Fund	172,109.37	304,669.80	256,887.44	219,891.73
Electric Utility Fund	919,043.37	741,142.87	1,034,024.21	626,162.03
Refuse Utility Fund	61,988.72	111,554.90	121,518.16	52,025.46
Sewer Utility Fund	416,433.03	187,620.34	114,410.26	489,643.11
TOTALS	3,746,825.28	2,896,516.07	2,801,520.91	3,841,820.44
General Obligation Indebtedness				10,368,000.00
Lease Purchases				2,427,720.04

Classified

CONTINUED

FROM PAGE 8

al Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at the appropriate FDIC office at 1100 Walnut St., Suite 2100, Kansas City, Missouri 64106 no later than August 8, 2025.

The non-confidential portions of the application are on file at the appropriate FDIC office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours.

Photocopies of the non-confidential

portion of the application file will be made available on request.

M-43-44-45-2738

First published July 9, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (3t)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BANK MERGER

Notice is hereby given that the SJN Bank of Kansas, St. John, Kansas, has made application to the State Bank Commissioner, Topeka, Kansas, for written consent to merge with Tam-

pa State Bank, Tampa, Kansas. It is contemplated that the banking offices of Tampa State Bank located at 326 Main St., Tampa, Kansas, and 1100 E Main, Marion, Kansas, will operate under the name Tampa State Bank, a branch of SJN Bank of Kansas.

This notice is published pursuant to Kansas Statutes Annotated 9-1724.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the State Bank Commissioner, 700 Jackson,

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

Peabody Township, Marion County

will meet on August 11, 2025 at 7:30 PM at Peabody Township Library for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 2002 S. Third St., Marion, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026			
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	582	0.106	700	0.092	44,791	876	0.074
Library	85,257	7.890	81,007	7.316	98,120	81,182	6.854
Totals	85,839	7.996	81,707	7.408	142,911	82,058	6.928
Funds Supported by Township Only - Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.000
Funds Supported by Township and 3rd Class City - Revenue Neutral Rate**							6.928
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	85,839		81,707		142,911		
Total Tax Levied	82,097		82,107				
Assessed Valuation: Township	10,266,577		11,076,611		11,843,929		
Township Assessed Valuation Only					6,622,349		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other			0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Norma Patton, Trustee

M-45-2774

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

Lehigh Township, Marion County

will meet on August 27, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Lehigh City Building 110 E Main, Lehigh, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., Marion, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026			
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	2,620	0.456	3,760	4.572	34,278	2,140	0.421
Fire Protection	19,337	4.179	20,270		24,539	16,942	3.927
Totals	21,957	4.635	24,030	4.572	58,817	19,082	4.348
Funds Supported by Township Only - Revenue Neutral Rate**							3.927
Funds Supported by Township and 3rd Class City - Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.421
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	21,957		24,030		58,817		
Total Tax Levied	19,085		19,084				
Assessed Valuation: Township	4,689,484		4,809,421		5,077,783		
Township Assessed Valuation Only					4,314,599		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

DeLayne Herbel, Clerk

M-45-2773

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

City of Tampa, Kansas

will meet on August 4, 2025 at 8:00 PM at City Office, Tampa, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Office, Tampa, KS and will be available at this hearing

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	46,134	44.590	85,000	44.590	136,561	41,094	41.595
Debt Service							
Library							
Sewer	4,609	4.923	9,741	4.922	71,682	4,863	4.922
Special Highway	1,404		2,894		11,762		
Non-Budgeted Funds	876						
Totals	53,023	49.513	97,635	49.512	220,005	45,957	46.517
Revenue Neutral Rate**							46.517
Less: Transfers	876		0		0		
Net Expenditure	52,147		97,635		220,005		
Total Tax Levied	43,071		45,957				
Assessed Valuation:	868,645		928,182		987,949		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	30,747		27,207		23,544		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	30,747		27,207		23,544		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Cory Brown, City Official Title: City Clerk

M-45-2785

Suite 300, Topeka, Kansas, 66603-3796. The comment period will end August 8, 2025.

Public comments may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act, K.S.A. 45-201 et seq. For information about submit-

ting a request for records, please refer to: <http://www.osbckansas.org/consumers/openrecords.html>

Date of First Publication: July 9, 2025

Applicant Bank: SJN Bank of Kansas

Location: 116 E. 3rd Street, St. John, Kansas 67576

Target Bank: Tampa State Bank

Location: 326 Main St., Tampa, Kansas 67483 and 1100 E Main, Marion, Kansas 66861

M-43-44-45-2739

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

College Hill Cemetery, Marion County

will meet on August 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM at G & R Implement Co., 417 S Douglas, Durham, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied and Revenue Neutral Rate. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., Marion, KS and will be available at this hearing.

SUPPORTING COUNTIES

Marion County (home county) Dickinson County

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026			
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	1,525	1.682	2,029	1.703	2,435	1,383	1.998
Totals	1,525	1.682	2,029	1.703	2,435	1,383	1.998
Revenue Neutral Rate**							1.716
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	1,525		2,029		2,435		
Total Tax Levied	1,189		1,188				
Assessed Valuation	706,663		697,409		692,230		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1,	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Pur. Princ.	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

LaVeta Wingerd, Treasurer

M-45-2769

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

Marion County Fire District #4, Marion County

will meet on Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Marion County Fire District #4 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied and Revenue Neutral Rate. Detailed budget information is available at Marion County Fire District #4 and will be available at this hearing

SUPPORTING COUNTIES

Marion County (home county) Harvey County

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	72,157	6.977	86,500	6.978	744,287	216,572	6.978
Debt Service							
Special Equipment			12,000		64,576		
Totals	72,157	6.977	98,500	6.978	808,863	216,572	6.978
Funds Supported by Township and 3rd Class City - Revenue Neutral Rate**							6.881
Less: Transfers	0		12,000		12,000		
Net Expenditure	72,157		86,500		796,863		
Total Tax Levied	207,283		213,554				
Assessed Valuation:	29,705,827		30,602,406		31,034,218		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Julie Enslinger, Clerk/Treasurer

M-45-2780

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

Menno Township, Marion County

will meet on August 27, 2025 at 8:00 PM at 325 140th, Hillsboro, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax and Revenue Neutral Rate. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., Marion, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Prior Year Actual 2024			Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	4,859	5.300	5,000	4.676	18,360	6,551	5.000
Totals	4,859	5.300	5,000	4.676	18,360	6,551	5.000
Fire Protection Revenue Neutral Rate**							4.540
Total Tax Levied:							
Fire Protection	5,950	5,949					
Assessed Valuation:							
Fire Protection	1,122,574	1,272,016		1,310,186			
Fund	Expen- ditures	Actual Rate*	Expen- ditures	Actual Rate*	Budget Auth.	Ad Valorem	Est. Tax Rate*
General	1,345	0.294	1,530	0.279	15,651		
Totals	1,345	0.294	1,530	0.279	15,651	0	0.000
Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.267
Less: Transfers	0	0		0			
Net Expenditures	1,345	1,530		15,651			
Total Tax Levied							
Township	1,381	1,381					
Assessed Valuation							
Township	4,696,443	4,943,782		5,166,395			
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1,	2023	2024		2025			
G.O. Bonds	0	0		0			
Revenue Bonds	0	0		0			
Other	0	0		0			
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0		0			
Total	0	0		0			

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Carol L. Duerksen, Trustee

M-45-2770

FAIR: Exhibitors, horses develop long-term bonds

FROM PAGE 3

agreed.

“The amount of work it takes to get here is through the roof,” he said.

During the first event, “horsemanship,” horses are judged on appearance, gait, and how they are handled.

A calm horse is essential for a good score.

“This horse is totally broke,” Andres said of Levi. “You can set a small bomb next to it, and it won’t do nothing.”

Clarissa Peterson’s daughter, in contrast, was skipping the horsemanship event.

“Her horse likes to bite her,” Peterson laughed.

In the second part of the showcase, 4-Hers mounted their steeds and navigated a trail pattern full of obstacles.

“It’s something you might incur if you’re out pasture riding, where you might be stepping over logs, going over a bridge,

or opening a gate,” Toews said. “We ask them to do a side pass, too, so they have to walk sideways with the horse.”

Horses were judged on footwork, maneuverability, and “smoothness in the saddle.” No one likes a bouncy ride.

Sixteen-year-old E.V. Cannon of Goessel rode Reba, a chestnut-colored red roan.

“She’s going to stand with you and listen,” E.V.’s mother, April Tucker, said. “She’s not going to throw a fit out in the arena like some of the others might.”

The Cannons purchased Reba in October.

“She’s kind of a spoiled brat,” Tucker said. “She likes to be babied.”

Even without many competitors, the horse show took around three hours to complete.

Roberts complained joking-

ly about Toews’ commitment to the show.

“Brett makes us stay all night,” he said. “At least we got a breeze.”

Unlike livestock, which are showcased at the fair in part so they can fetch high prices at auction, horses are a permanent fixture in riders’ lives.

“A lot of these kids will keep these horses for their whole career,” Toews said. “They’re very attached to them.”

Often, a seasoned horse will spend many years at showcases, having grown up alongside its rider.

For local youths, competing is less about a high score than it is about an evening out with a four-legged friend.

“They spend hours to get 15 minutes in front of the judge,” Roberts said. “But the journey is what develops those life skills that we think are so important.”



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT
Nine contestants competed in the Marion County Fair horse show Sunday.

DERBY: Fair event is in the blood

FROM PAGE 1

“We’re getting the youngsters involved so we can retire,” Druse said.

The scheduled finale of this week’s Marion County Fair is a demolition derby Saturday evening.

The derby is arguably the most loved event of the fair. Bleachers are so packed it always is difficult to find a place to sit.

Relatives, friends, and strangers who admire a driver’s skill cheer them on.

The derby brings competitors from a wide swath of territory.

Last year, 59 drivers competed. Many were longtime derby competitors.

Fire departments from around the county will stand ready in case they are needed, and an ambulance will stand ready as well.

Training day



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT
Turkey Creek Rd. was closed Thursday and Friday between US-50 and 80th Rd. for scheduled work on railway lines.

CAFE: Owner leaving to be with family

FROM PAGE 3

menu.

While she said she’s recieved “nothing but positive feedback” from the community, business hasn’t been spectacular.

Dahlgren has tried karaoke nights, trivia games, and hours stretching long into the evening to attract more customers, but her clientele still “doesn’t represent the full population of Marion,” she said.

She has, however, found the regulars she so desired in a group of older men who drink coffee together in the mornings.

“One of them told me one day I was an answer to his prayers because I opened the shop,” she said.

During what could be the final weeks of The Sit Down, Dahlgren is trying a streamlined strategy to draw more business.

“I’m cutting down on the food, and we’ve expanded our drinks,” she said. “And I’m going to adjust my hours. There’s no point in me trying to stay open till seven, hoping people are coming.”

Asked what advice she’d give a replacement coffee shop, Dahlgren shared a few ideas.

“I do think they should have food,” she said. “I did well for a while last year and into the winter with certain sandwiches.

“And I wouldn’t change our espresso beans for anything.”

WILSON: Legislator visits Patriots group

FROM PAGE 3

civilians.

One post incorrectly claims that because of a 2013 Supreme Court ruling, vaccinated Americans “are now owned and have no more access to human rights.”

More recently, Wilson posted a fake newspaper clipping asserting that 2024 Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz was hospitalized after drinking horse semen and a picture of “the shooter at the KC Chiefs parade the press won’t show you.” (Multiple men have been charged in connection with the shooting.) He referred to the black man in the picture as a “thug” in the comments section.

His posts frequently are blurred by Facebook for missing context or misinformation,

which Wilson sometimes objects to in the comments section.

“Partly false means mostly true,” he wrote in one comment, accompanied by an American flag emoji.

Wilson did not respond to Facebook messages requesting comment on his posts.

A farmer outside of Abilene, Wilson and his wife, Marcia, joined 22 others at Sunday’s Patriots for Liberty meeting in the county lake hall.

State Senator Scott Hill, who Wilson replaced as representative, also attended the first 10 minutes of the meeting before departing for Wichita to meet with Senate President Ty Masterson.

Masterson announced later Sunday he was running for governor.

Hill gave a goodbye speech to the Patriots, though he assured them he’d be back.

“I’ve loved every minute of coming down here,” Hill said. “Marion County is a really important part of the 70th District. It’s important because you guys are solid conservatives. You’re people we can relate with. You have a lot of common sense. Greg’s going to do a fantastic job of representing your interests.”

Wilson gave a speech at the start of the meeting and spoke with constituents afterward.

“I’ll guarantee you, I am a conservative vote, every vote,” he said. “If it’s not constitutional, and it’s not common sense, it won’t pass my muster.”

Wilson said he was working on printing business cards, and until then constituents could

reach out to him on social media.

“I’m on Facebook,” he said.

After the meeting, Wilson said he planned on attending more Patriot events in the future.

Asked whether he would work to restore state and federal funding for commodities programs in Marion County, Wilson said he hadn’t heard of the cuts.

“I don’t personally know that yet,” he said. “Trump is taking care of his farmers, which he did the first time he was in office. But I don’t know about that. ... We’ll visit if we have the parameters.”

WATER: Pipes being flushed

FROM PAGE 3

after the evaluation whether to construct a treatment plant, drill a new well, or take a different direction.

“It would be more economical to look for a different well source,” Ronnebaum said, citing high costs associated with constructing and maintaining a treatment plant.

Chisholm said the engineer’s evaluation would take time.

“There’s a lot that has to happen before they come out,” she said. “This is not an overnight fix. And it’s not that we haven’t been working on it for

a long time. We have. But nobody thinks we have.”

Rural water boards are elected by district members at annual meetings required by state bylaws.

These meetings are typically poorly attended, Ronnebaum said.

Some districts have tried to lure members to their annual meetings with guest speakers, live entertainment, and home-cooked food.

“I know of... a couple in southeast Kansas who provide a supper to encourage people to attend,” Ronnebaum said. “Generally, they have from 50 to 100-plus of the members.”

Classified CONTINUED

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

Clear Creek Township, Marion County

will meet on August 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Lincolnville Communitiy Building, Lincolnville, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., Marion, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expend- itures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expend- itures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	764	0.094	840	0.091	3,166	751	0.087
Totals	764	0.094	840	0.091	3,166	751	0.087
Funds Supported by Township Only - Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.000
Funds Supported by Township and 3rd Class City - Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.087
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	764		840		3,166		
Total Tax Levied	749		749				
Assessed Valuation: Township	7,967,981		8,198,286		8,606,887		
Township Assessed Valuation Only					7,480,546		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Marcus Carlson, Treasurer

M-45-2772

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)							
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING							
The governing body of							
Tampa Community Cemetery, Marion County							
will meet on August 18, 2025 at 7:30 PM at Tampa Board Room, 315 Main St, Tampa, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to levied. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., Marion, KS and will be available at this hearing.							
BUDGET SUMMARY							
Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.							
Fund	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	9,960	1.525	12,975	1.502	30,304	8,456	1.458
Debt Service							
Totals	9,960	1.525	12,975	1.502	30,304	8,456	1.458
Revenue Neutral Rate**					1.458		
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	9,960		12,975		30,304		
Total Tax Levied	8,456		8,456				
Assessed Valuation	5,543,043		5,628,862		5,798,193		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1,	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Pur. Princ.	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		
*Tax rates are expressed in mills.							
**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988							
Ronald Mueller, Secretary/Treasurer							

Low numbers, high spirits as alumni retake field

By **FINN HARTNETT**
Staff writer

In between smoking cigarettes, crushing beers, and reminiscing about old classmates, the Peabody-Burns baseball alumni realized they didn't have enough players to field a team.

The alumni were scheduled to scrimmage a formidable group of coaches and players, led by Jim Philpott, during the first day of the under-16 Babe Ruth baseball tournament in Peabody's city park last week.

But by game time, only seven or so alumni had gathered beyond the right field foul pole. Some, like Darren Pickens, weren't even planning on playing.

"I got a bad knee," he said. "The last thing I need to do is turn it out of shape. I'm too old for that crap."

Pickens was a shortstop for the Peabody team in the 1980s. Although the alumni were different ages, all lived in town and were close, he said.

"I'm friends with all these guys," Pickens said. "We all hang out."

Pickens' mother, Sharon, was in attendance. Her hus-



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

Young fans relax in a dugout before an alumni game begins at the start of a state 16-and-younger Babe Ruth baseball tournament last week in Peabody.

band Dennis, who played baseball in Florence and was a charter member of the Peabody team when it joined the Babe Ruth organization, was honored at the tournament.

"We lost him in September,

and baseball was his life," she said.

Sharon, known as "Mama Pick" to many around Peabody, had grandkids playing on the current Peabody team and knew every alum.

"Some of them I babysat," she said.

Robert Turner, who was on the Peabody team for "one game in 2001" as a catcher, leaned against a pickup with a cooler of beer in the truck bed.

He departed Peabody after graduation, but has since returned and lived in town for 12 years.

"We're hoping a couple more show up after golf night," he said.

Turner eventually competed in the scrimmage as an alumni, but he, like Pickens, was worried about his stamina.

"They got the bases set at 90 feet, and I like 60 feet in softball," he said.

The actual Babe Ruth tournament also struggled to draw competitors.

Though organizers said before the tournament that they expected eight or more teams to compete, only three showed up — the Fredonia Yellowjackets, the Humboldt Cubs, and the host Cottonwood Valley League team, which consisted of Peabody-Burns' roster and a handful of players from Hillsboro, Chase County, and Marion.

"I think a few teams boycotted because there's not any hotels within five minutes," Turner said. "It would have been nice to have more competition."

Coordinator Jonathan Richstatter said that football camps, students going on summer va-

cation, and fatigue after a long baseball season contributed to teams dropping out.

"There were a lot of conflicts," he said.

Still, the tournament drew a solid crowd, propelled by the strength of the home team, which eventually defeated Fredonia and Humboldt to become under-16 Babe Ruth state champions.

"You get some years where you have a group of them, and they gel together, and that's this class right here," Turner said of the Cottonwood Valley League team. "They read each other's minds. You don't always get that, especially in small groups."

Before any official games was Wednesday's scrimmage, which eventually took place after other attendees, including the young son of an alum and a *Record* reporter, were invited to fill out the alumni team.

The coaches took an early lead and held on for the victory, but the alumni showed strong spirit throughout, leaving the field with joints achy, shirts dusty, and heads held high.



STAFF PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS KIMBALL

The scoreboard reads 10-0 in the first inning as Aiden Hurst smacks a line drive to bring in another run for Cottonwood Valley during the 16-and-younger Babe Ruth championship game Saturday afternoon in Peabody.

CVL captures state title at Peabody

By **NICHOLAS KIMBALL**
Staff writer

A Cottonwood Valley team made up of seven Peabody teens, two Marion and White-water-area teens, and one each from Hillsboro, Moundridge, and El Dorado won the state Babe Ruth 16-and-younger championship Saturday in Peabody.

The team defeated Fredonia 22-1 in a game shortened to four innings.

"A large part of this team has played together since they were 9 years old, when they went to Harper for their first state tournament," head coach Jim Philpott said.

They've been doing this every year since.

"Our goal over the years has always been to win the sportsmanship award, which we did three times," Philpott said. "We finished one time in the tournament in third place."

"This is the last year for



Dalton Philpott winds up and fires amid his shutout Saturday in the 16-and-younger Babe Ruth state championship game.

most of the boys in this division of Babe Ruth baseball."

Cottonwood Valley started the tournament beating Fredonia and Humboldt on Thursday.

On Friday, they beat Fredonia again, 6-5, on a walk-off ground-rule double.

Humboldt forfeited its Friday game against Cottonwood Valley due to weather.

That put Cottonwood Valley in the championship Saturday against Fredonia, a team they had already beaten twice.

"This group of young men has been a joy to be around and

coach," Philpott said. "They are a tight-knit bunch and will do anything for each other."

"My two older sons, Jess and Clayton, have played a huge part in helping coach this team and connect with the boys so well."

Cottonwood Valley will represent Kansas in a Midwest regional tournament this week in Goddard.

The team will open up 9 a.m. Thursday against East Central Colorado and play again at 11:15 a.m. against the Rapid City Sliders from South Dakota.

Cottonwood Valley will play Friday afternoon against Buckley Bombers from Colorado before the bracket portion of the tournament begins 6 p.m. Friday.

"If we win the first bracket game, then we play in the championship game Saturday morning at 9 a.m.," Philpott said.

Younger tourney staged at Hillsboro

By **FINN HARTNETT**
Staff writer

Like Peabody, Hillsboro was host for a Babe Ruth state baseball tournament this weekend, this one for players 10 and younger.

The five competing teams arrived for a baseball clinic and picnic Wednesday night before competing Thursday to Sunday.

Schools representing Parsons, Columbus, and Wichita were all present, as were two county teams, Hillsboro Gold and Hillsboro Maroon.

Both Hillsboro teams included a few kids from Marion and Chase County to fill out their ranks, Hillsboro Parks and Recreation director David Ediger said, although those teams did not bear the "Cottonwood Valley League" moniker kids in Peabody used.

Hillsboro has been the site for the tournament a few times before, including last year.

"They said we did such a good job that they're giving it back to us," Ediger said. "This year, we had five instead of six [teams], so we played a round-robin and then went into tournament play."

Parsons defeated Columbus in the final game, 10-6, and will move on to a regional tournament in Goddard.

The Gold and Maroon county teams finished third and fifth respectively.

"There was some really good baseball with some small-town teams here," Ediger said. "The Gold team played right with Columbus, which was a really, really good team."

A volley of good cheer



A girl shows off her athleticism, dropping to her knees with pads on and preventing the ball from touching the ground during a volleyball camp this week at the Sports and Aquatic Center in Marion.



STAFF PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS KIMBALL

Marion High School cheer leaders got together on Tuesday and Wednesday for an all-day camp to practice routines. The girls danced through different routines involving arm, leg, and body movements inside the Sports and Aquatic Center in Marion.